

Nadir threatens 'Watergate' on Tories

Continued from page 1

former British overlords. Mr Nadir had tactfully removed the watch presented to him before his escape by Mr Mates and replaced it with one less controversial. "Things have not got me down, I am so relaxed I am almost asleep," he said in reference to the unfortunate inscription. "I think that the business about the watch has been overdone. You people [in the media] should be concentrating on the wider ramifications about what happened."

Mr Nadir appeared to be relishing the prospect of taking revenge against those political leaders in Britain who friends here believe led him on to donate large sums of money to the Tories and other causes in the false belief that he would receive a knighthood. Asked if it was the British system or the politicians he was angry with, the bankrupt bail-jumper with the affluent Mediterranean lifestyle replied: "There is no distinction. It is the politicians who run the system."

In the lobby of his headquarters was a large mosaic of the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. The walls of his wood-paneled office, which the gunmen never left, were lined with files supposedly containing

some of the secrets with which Mr Nadir intends to embarrass the Tory establishment. The fax machine hummed continuously with the latest cuttings from London.

Asked about his relations with Lord Tebbit, to whom it is alleged he was introduced in 1983 by Mehmet Sakir, a Turkish businessman, and who this week spoke scathingly of him, Mr Nadir's smile changed to a grimace. "Obviously he is one of those British men who do not believe in what they preach about a man being innocent until he is proven guilty. His remarks [accusing Mr Nadir of being involved in criminal conspiracies] are just part of the Alice in Wonderland society that exists in modern Britain, where theoretically you have a judiciary that is supposed to be independent."

Mr Nadir's temper rose. Wearing a tailored white shirt which failed to disguise the rolls of fat now hanging over his expensive trousers, he added: "Ask yourself, is that not supposed to be the case? Yet Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, came over here personally trying to intervene with the government of the TRNC to try and persuade them to return me to Britain. Is that not a little odd? I think people ought to practice what they preach."

Mr Nadir showed similar disdain for Lord McAlpine, whom he accused of trying to smear him in the British press by implying that he had tried in 1991 to "blackmail" the former Tory party treasurer into helping him fight his £30-million theft and fraud case by otherwise threatening to disclose the full extent of his donations to the Conservative party.

"I was very surprised to see Lord McAlpine's statement, but of course I understand his motives," Mr Nadir added. "He was treasurer of the party and now he is trying to discredit me. But I am not interested in their disinformation campaign. I am going to present the truth."

Asked to describe his mood six weeks after his escape from £3.5 million bail via France, Mr Nadir lit yet another cigarette, sipped strong coffee from the percolator always hot by his side, and said: "I am determined. I am determined to clear my name and to leave not a single item unturned. The government-supported authorities in Britain have behaved in a criminal fashion. I repeat the word criminal and we will substantiate this."

He did not try to disguise his enjoyment at the sudden new upsurge of interest in his case and its political ramifications. "Normally, any

story in Britain is forgotten in a week, but after six weeks, this is going stronger than ever," he said with a boyish grin. "I can assure you, there will be more media interest when the information we have is made public."

On yesterday's evidence, it was impossible to judge whether there do exist documented facts which will substantiate Mr Nadir's conspiracy theory against the Tory party and Britain's judiciary. When I asked him to provide at least some of his alleged documentary evidence, he flatly refused, saying the timing was not yet right, and denying that he was using the media to attract even more attention. "The whole thing is going to be totally substantiated. It will show them in their true colours," he said.

To a number of specific questions about his alleged links with named political figures, Mr Nadir would only answer: "No comment on that today." Although he would probably deny it, revenge against those politicians who once flattered him appears now to have turned into an obsession, filling most waking hours in what is otherwise a very restricted life in a sunny but isolated backwater.

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Tory treasurer admits fault in accepting gifts

By JILL SHERMAN, CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT AND ANGELA MACKAY

THE man who was treasurer of the Conservative party at the time Asil Nadir made donations to the party admitted last night that he was "wrong" to have allowed the party to accept the £440,000 and had "misjudged" the situation.

Baron McAlpine of West Green was speaking after the defence by Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory chairman, of the party's handling of political donations. Mr Nadir, former chairman of the Polly Peck group, is charged with theft and false accounting and jumped bail last month, fleeing to Northern Cyprus.

Although Lord McAlpine was not directly involved in the transactions, he could have intervened. "I could have said: 'Well hang about this fellow [Mr Nadir] is a crook,'" but he didn't seem like a crook at the time," he admitted.

Lord McAlpine said the rules governing political donations needed to be changed: "If I were treasurer now I would

instigate a check that companies were declaring donations."

Earlier John Major defended the right of businesses to make big donations to the party. He told the Commons: "British business supports the Conservative party because they believe our policies are right for British business, Britain's future and British jobs."

Nirj Deva, Tory MP for Brentford and Isleworth, spoke last night of his former links with Mr Nadir. He and Michael Stephen, MP for Shoreham, both elected to parliament in 1992, worked together for a consultancy and had been retained by one of Mr Nadir's family companies as advisers to the Turkish Cypriot Association.

Mr Deva said last night: "I only ever met him once in the mid-eighties but I think he has really let the side down. I am really rather shocked that he skipped like that."

Robin Cook, Labour's shadow trade and industry spokesman, is to attempt to discover the complete list of Tory peers and MPs who made representations on Mr Nadir's behalf.



Far from the madding crowd: Asil Nadir relaxes at his home in Lapti, North Cyprus yesterday.

Major protests over Robinson's Ulster visit plan

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and Ireland were at loggerheads last night over a planned visit to Ulster today by Mary Robinson, president of the Republic.

In an affair threatening to sour relations between the two countries, inflame unionists and put back the search for a political settlement in the province, John Major has protested angrily to Dublin over Mrs Robinson's plans to meet nationalist groups in the republican stronghold of West Belfast.

She is expected to be present at a meeting attended by Gerry Adams, the former Sinn Féin MP.

John Major registered his strong opposition to Mrs Robinson's plans, but has told Mrs Robinson that he has no power over the president. One British aide said: "The fact is that they do not have a handle on her. She is her own woman and does it her own way."

Mr Reynolds is understood to be embarrassed by Mrs Robinson's plans, but has told Mrs Robinson that he has no power over the president. One British aide said: "The fact is that they do not have a handle on her. She is her own woman and does it her own way."

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as insensitive and to fear that they would "stir things up" in Northern Ireland at a time when Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, is attempting to restart all-party talks on the future of the province.

Intense efforts were under way last night to persuade Mrs Robinson to "have a touch of diplomatic flu", as one official put it, or at least modify her programme. Her office has not admitted officially that the visit is going ahead and a spokeswoman said last night no decision had been taken.

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Navy reserves fall to defence cutbacks

The Royal Naval Auxiliary Service, a reserve volunteer force which has existed in its present form for more than 30 years, was axed yesterday. Most of the 2,700 volunteers will be told to go. The end was announced in the Commons as part of a cutback of about 4,000 in naval and RAF reserve manpower.

The Royal Naval Reserve, which has minesweeping and other duties in wartime, is also to be cut back. The reductions in manpower in the naval reserve forces will save £8 million a year. Larger cuts in army reserve forces are also expected later this year. In spite of the latest cuts, Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, yesterday confirmed that he wanted to deploy reserves in all three services more widely in operational roles in peacetime.

Sir Robin subpoenaed

Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary, was subpoenaed to the High Court yesterday by Ray Petch, 54, a former assistant secretary. He is suing BBC reporter Peter Taylor over broadcast extracts from a memo. Mr Petch was exonerated from leaking the memo, which he wrote. The case continues.

Huntsman cleared

A huntsman alleged to have used his horse to trample a saboteur was last night cleared of assault at Lincoln County Court. Brian Ranshaw, 56, of Keston, Leicestershire, and master of the Cottingham Hunt, had denied assaulting Martin Casbon, of the Peterborough Hunt Saboteurs.

Elton back in Israel

Elton John returned to Israel yesterday for his scheduled concert, a day after a dispute with photographers and passport officials. After his private jet landed at Ben Gurion airport, Tel Aviv, he was hurried through passport control as police kept photographers away.

Jobless fall boosts hopes

Continued from page 1
pointing in the right direction. Independent analysts remain sceptical about the unemployment figures, though Whitehall officials and City economists concede that the upward trend in unemployment does seem to have ended.

The 26,100 fall in seasonally-adjusted unemployment in May, to 2,913,800, takes to 78,500 the total decline in unemployment so far this year. The latest figure takes unemployment still standing at 10.4 per cent of the workforce to its lowest level for six months.

Unemployment fell in all regions, apart from the North, where it stood still. Unadjusted unemployment in May — the number of people out of work and claiming benefit — fell by 83,932 to 2,916,579 in the largest monthly fall since October 1988, taking the total once again under the sensitive 3 million mark.

Peter Riddell, *Times* leading article writer, says: "25 years low. Car boom."

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Kidnap victim tells jury how she had a vision of Christ

By PAUL WILKINSON

STEPHANIE Slater had a vision of Christ as she lay chained, cold, frightened and alone in the dark on the first night of her kidnap. She was so distressed that she believed she had died in the cramped coffin-like box in which she was kept by her kidnapper, Michael Sams, she told a jury yesterday.

As reality returned with the daylight she determined that the only way to save her life was to build a rapport with Sams. Only once did she panic, on the last night of her eight-day ordeal, contemplating suicide when she believed she had been left to die.

Miss Slater, 26, who was in Sams' presence yesterday for the first time since her release in January last year, testified at Nottingham Crown Court with a colleague, Kevin Watts. She relived her experiences in a highly-charged atmosphere on day seven of Sams' trial.

The jury had already heard how the Birmingham estate agent had been kidnapped by Sams as she showed him round a house.

Describing her first night in captivity, gagged, bound and blindfolded, she said: "It was bitterly cold, my arms went to sleep. I had pins and needles. I didn't sleep much, if at all, it was so cold. I thought I had died. I thought I had gone, simply gone."

"I got in my mind a portrait of Christ starkly before me in the blackness. I am not a religious person, so it was quite a shock. It was so cold and my back was killing me. You couldn't describe the pain. I did not know if he was going to kill me or what."

The only time Miss Slater faltered in her evidence was when she described the first time Sams had manacled her wrists and legs and pushed her inside the specially made wooden box which tapered at the foot like a coffin.

She leaned forward in the witness box, her voice broke

"I wanted him to see me as another human being, not just something he could play God with"

and she held her hand over her closed eyes. But almost instantly she brushed aside an offer from the judge of an adjournment. She described how only her head poked out at one end of the box, but the whole thing had then been pushed inside a wheely bin and the lid held in place with a rock.

Describing what happened the morning after her vision, she said: "I thought to myself about the situation I was in. I knew screaming, shouting and fighting were not working because I had already tried it. I thought if I tried to make him think I was a human being it

could make it difficult for him to kill me. I tried building up some sort of a rapport. I tried to talk to him a little with bits of conversation."

"I had done training for my job on how to speak to people, how to deal with difficult clients, I thought it could help. I was determined to have a go."

"It was very slow. I didn't know if it was working. He answered me. As the week progressed I thought he was behaving all right. He was civil to my questions and I tried to respond to his. I felt that some kind of rapport had been built there."

"I wanted to make it hard for him to kill me. I wanted him to see me as another human being, not just something he could play God with. If he got to like me I would be difficult to kill."

Sams, 51, has admitted kidnapping Miss Slater and demanding a ransom of £175,000 from her employers. He denies the kidnap and murder of Julie Dart, 18, a Leeds prostitute and demanding a ransom of £140,000 from West Yorkshire Police. He has also denied blackmailing British Rail for £200,000 with a threat to derail an express train.

Throughout Miss Slater's evidence she never once looked at Sams in the dock. He sat hunched forward staring at the ground, frequently weeping throughout her statement.

She said that although she was constantly frightened for her life she had only broken down on one occasion, the last night when Sams was away for 10 hours collecting her ransom. "He was gone for hours. I thought: he's not coming back. I am going to die here. I thought I'm not going to starve to death and I tried to commit suicide."

During the day she was allowed out to lie on a mattress, still blindfolded and gagged. "Close by was a chair and a makeshift lavatory consisting of a bucket and two pieces of wood. Her blindfold was rarely removed and Sams insisted that on those occasions she kept her eyes closed. "I never looked at him. I was too frightened."

The trial continues today.



Watts arriving at court with Stephanie Slater

Working party will look closely at cross-country fences



Seconds from disaster: Mark Holliday approaches the fence where he died

Third trials death prompts safety enquiry

By JENNY MACARTHUR

CONCERN is growing about the safety of horse trials after a rider was killed in Northumberland in the third fatal accident of its kind in three weeks.

Mark Holliday, 23, from Ashkirk, in the Borders, died at Hexham horse trials, nine days after Malcolm Munro-Kerr was fatally injured in a fall at the Lowesby horse trials in Leicestershire. Nine days earlier, Richard Adams, also 23, was killed at the Windsor three-day event.

The three deaths are being investigated by a working party set up by the British Horse Society to look at the safety of cross-country fences.

Mr Holliday, a former head groom to the European champion, Ian Stark, fell at the thirteenth fence, the water complex. His horse, the seven-year-old Master Platt, owned by Mrs J Millar, was attempting to jump a birch railing coming out of the water.

The horse somersaulted, throwing Mr Holliday to the ground. He was taken to Newcastle General Hospital, where he died.

Mr Stark, who had employed Mr Holliday at his yard in Ashkirk for two years, said: "Mark died doing what he loved and he would not want any other horse trial competitor to be deterred from taking part by his tragic, freak accident."

The working party, chaired by Hugh Thomas, director of the Badminton horse trials, will try to determine whether the accident was an isolated incident or if the three deaths are part of a pattern. Mr Thomas said: "The three fatalities have all been at different types of fences. We will investigate each of them thor-

oughly and I hope we will produce our findings within four weeks."

The working party is also to look at the controversial table fence, a square-shaped obstacle with a flat top which has regularly been used in horse trials and Pony Club events for 30 years. Three out of the last five deaths have occurred at variations of this type of fence, including that of Mr Adams at Windsor.

Despite calls from within the sport to ban such fences, Mr Thomas said he had received no evidence that they were inherently dangerous. Riders point out that the three recent deaths were all at fences which gave little or no trouble to other competitors. The Table at Windsor, where Mr Adams fell, had been jumped by 159 other riders without incident. The rails where Mr Munro-Kerr fell at Lowesby had been without mishap for four years and 176 horses cleared the fence. More than 300 horses have successfully negotiated the water complex at Hexham over the past three years and Wednesday's accident was its first.

Writing in *Horse and Hound* magazine this week, Captain Mark Phillips, a member of the working party, says: "There is no question that fences are much better built and much more sympathetic than they were 30 years ago. Man, though, is a competitive beast. The better built a fence, the faster he feels able to travel over it."

Lesley Richards, 22, who was seriously injured after being thrown from her horse in a trotting race at Towyn, Clwyd, on Tuesday, was critically ill in hospital yesterday.

Bristol student dies in 15ft fall after finals prank

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A STUDENT'S prank during celebrations to mark the end of final examinations at Bristol University ended in his death after he fell from a disused hospital building.

John Kilroy, 21, an outstanding law student who was sponsored during university by the army, died when a wall gave way as he tried to reach a traffic cone. He fell 15ft on to the pavement and broke his neck.

Friends tried to revive Mr Kilroy, but he was dead on arrival at hospital. His father, who was due to identify the body yesterday, said: "We are all just numb — it's a tragic loss."

A university spokeswoman said: "He was a very promising student with a bright future ahead of him. Everyone in the university is shocked by what has happened. It is a very sad and unfortunate accident."

Mr Kilroy was a cadet in the Officer Training Corps (OTC) and had planned to go to Sandhurst after graduating. Yesterday OTC Major Stephen Southall said of Mr Kilroy: "He had excellent officer potential. This is a tragic

loss of a promising young man. He was an extremely good cadet who was very popular with other members. He had a promising career ahead of him in the regular army and was being sponsored by the Light Division. He was destined to become a Royal Green Jacket and wanted to go to Sandhurst for a year when he graduated."

A contemporary at the university, who was also a fellow pupil of Mr Kilroy's at Winchester College, said: "John was a very popular chap. He was good-looking and ambitious, and he seemed to have everything going for him. He was very easy-going and had lots of friends. He always worked very hard and played hard."

Michael Nevin, Mr Kilroy's former housemaster at Winchester, said: "He was a quietly spoken lad, calm and industrious. He was quite shy at first but became much more of a leader. His death is absolutely devastating — he was on the brink of a very bright career. Just a moment's prank and all this is wasted when he had the world before him."

Cricketer hits record for 11 sixes

A VILLAGE cricketer is claiming a world record after scoring 11 consecutive sixes. Rob Kelly, 24, was playing for Buckland St Mary, Somerset, when he culminated the West Indian all-rounder Gary Sobers by hitting all six balls of one over for sixes.

Mr Kelly, a worker at a Chard food factory, went on to hit sixes off the first five balls of the next over, from a different bowler. The sixth ball of the second over hit him on the shoulder. Mr Kelly said: "The bowler let fly a bouncer, not wanting to be hit for a sixth six."

He ran up a total of 111 not out against Taunton Casuals in division three of the West Somerset league. "It cost me a few drinks," he said.

His all-sixes over alone would have won the game. The Casuals were all out for 24 in reply to Buckland St Mary's 219 for five.

Cancer diagnosis errors 'made nine months ago'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SPECIALISTS at the hospital where children were unnecessarily treated for cancer after being misdiagnosed claimed last night that the first error was made nine months ago, putting other patients at risk.

Managers ignored repeated complaints about the poor quality of the pathology service at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, the specialists in charge of the bone tumour service said. They said they had a dossier of 20 cases illustrating the service's shortcomings. Managers denied they had been told of problems in the service until three weeks ago.

Two children were treated at the hospital with chemotherapy, which made their hair fall out and caused other side effects, even though they did not have cancer. Matthew Guest, 9, was misdiagnosed with bone sarcoma, a form of bone cancer, and Debbie Leary, 14, was misdiagnosed

with Ewing's tumour, another form of bone cancer. Both had osteomyelitis, a non-malignant disease.

Rodney Seath, consultant surgeon in charge of the bone tumour service at the hospital, said the 20 cases involved decisions that were "borderline", and were examples of a "below-par service".

"We have been saying for the last three years that we are unhappy with the pathology service," he said.

South Birmingham Health Authority announced this week that it had set up an enquiry.

Dr Gillian Todd, chief executive of the acute unit, said: "The first we knew there was a problem was on May 24 when I was approached by one of the surgeons. We immediately stopped treatment on all patients until their cases had been reviewed and set up the enquiry on May 26." She said that the failure of the bone

tumour service to disclose the earlier error would be examined by the enquiry panel.

Dr Patricia Morris Jones, cancer specialist at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, who referred Debbie Leary to Birmingham for treatment, said there was concern about the diagnosis from the start and chemotherapy was delayed while efforts were made to confirm it.

Dr Morris Jones said that Debbie's mother, Linda Leary, had contacted the press when she had read that the health authority planned to review cases up to six months ago, which would have excluded Debbie.

"She was also concerned that the reports that there had been only one case were not accurate," Dr Morris Jones said.

The health authority now plans to review all patients seen in the past year, amounting to 300 cases.

Wedding plea fails

A huntsman jailed for running into a hunt saboteur with a four-wheel cycle failed to obtain his freedom on appeal so that he could get married on Saturday.

Michael Smith, 28, of Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire, was sentenced to two months by Bicester magistrates on Monday. He appealed against sentence at Oxford Crown Court.

His fiancée, Frances Hopkins, 25, fled from the court when the recorder, Martin Wilson, rejected the appeal, saying the assault was "aggressive and dangerous".

Ferry mystery

Police fear Geoffrey Spence, 28, whose body was found on a beach after he vanished from the ferry *Norstar* en route to Hull, was murdered. His credit card has been used.

JP's appeal

Cranog Jones, the Cheltenham magistrate jailed for trying to murder his wife with a home-made gas chamber, has appealed against his conviction and nine-year sentence.

Murder charge

Robin Cowley, 29, was charged with murdering his wife Tracey, 24, who was found strangled near her home in Cannock, Staffordshire, three weeks ago.

Six killed

Three Nottinghamshire landworkers died and five people were hurt when six vehicles crashed near Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

Necklace alert

Oxford shops are withdrawing 7,000 Guatemalan necklaces because they are poisonous.

Overdose woman 'was doomed'

A WOMAN aged 30, who died alone in a field from a drugs overdose was "doomed from the day she was born", according to her father.

Neil Vine-Miller, a film director, said that after a privileged upbringing his daughter Lucy had gone off the rails. She had been diagnosed as an alcoholic when she was aged 15 and had been expelled from a number of select private schools, including St George's, Ascot, Berkshire.

Mr Vine-Miller, speaking after Robert Wilson, the East Berkshire coroner, had recorded a verdict of suicide at the inquest at Windsor, said Lucy's mother Jean had died from an overdose when his daughter was only seven.

"She was doomed. She didn't

have a chance from the day she was born," he said. "She had everything going for her... somewhere along the line, something went wrong. All parents always ask, 'Why? What did we do wrong?'"

During the inquest the coroner read from a statement made by Robert Windsor, 56, who lived with Lucy in Bracknell, Berkshire, for 13 months. It said: "She had been a heroin addict since the age of 12. She would say if she couldn't kick the habit, she would die in the next couple of years."

Lucy's body lay in a field at Reed's Hill, Bracknell, for more than a day before it was found by a man walking his dog, the inquest at Windsor was told.

When her mother died she lived with her father, and then after

being kicked out of schools she went to live with her grandmother. Later she became a patient at several hospitals before seeking help from welfare workers and living with Mr Windsor.

Mr Vine-Miller, whose film work has included *The Revenge of the Pink Panther*, said after the inquest: "She led a life of torture because of her addictive personality. She was seeing a child psychiatrist at the age of four. We just thought she was being a mischievous little girl, but there was something abnormal about Lucy. This is a double tragedy."

Recording his verdict, Mr Wilson, the coroner, said: "This is very sad. You bring your children into the world and you don't know how they are going to turn out."

Muggers beat pregnant woman

A PREGNANT woman was undergoing hospital tests yesterday after she was savagely beaten by three teenage muggers.

The woman, 35, who is expecting a child in two weeks, was battered to the pavement as she tried to stop the teenagers stealing her handbag. An initial check-up by her GP found no apparent damage to the unborn child. But the woman developed severe abdominal pains on Wednesday night and was admitted to hospital yesterday.

Doctors said it was too early to say whether the baby had been injured. The woman, who has six children and is expecting the baby early next month, was attacked on Wednesday afternoon in Handsworth, Birmingham, close to her home. Det Insp John Pike, who

is in charge of the hunt for the attackers, said: "She was examined by her GP immediately afterwards and seemed to be OK. Unfortunately, during the night she had serious pains and had to go to hospital."

He added: "This was a nasty attack and it must have been very obvious that the woman was pregnant."

The thieves ripped a gold chain with a pearl and diamond pendant from her neck and also snatched her bag, which contained £50.

Police are looking for three black youths, thought to be West Indian. One was 5ft 2in tall and wore a black baseball cap, black jacket and jeans. Another was of average height and wore a green bomber jacket. The third was also of average

height and wore orange and black jeans.

Women and black and ethnic minorities are most fearful of violence at work, a report by the white-collar Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union will say today.

It says staff shortages put stress on employees and the resulting increase in waiting time makes customers angry, often leading to abuse. Health, voluntary and finance workers are most at risk.

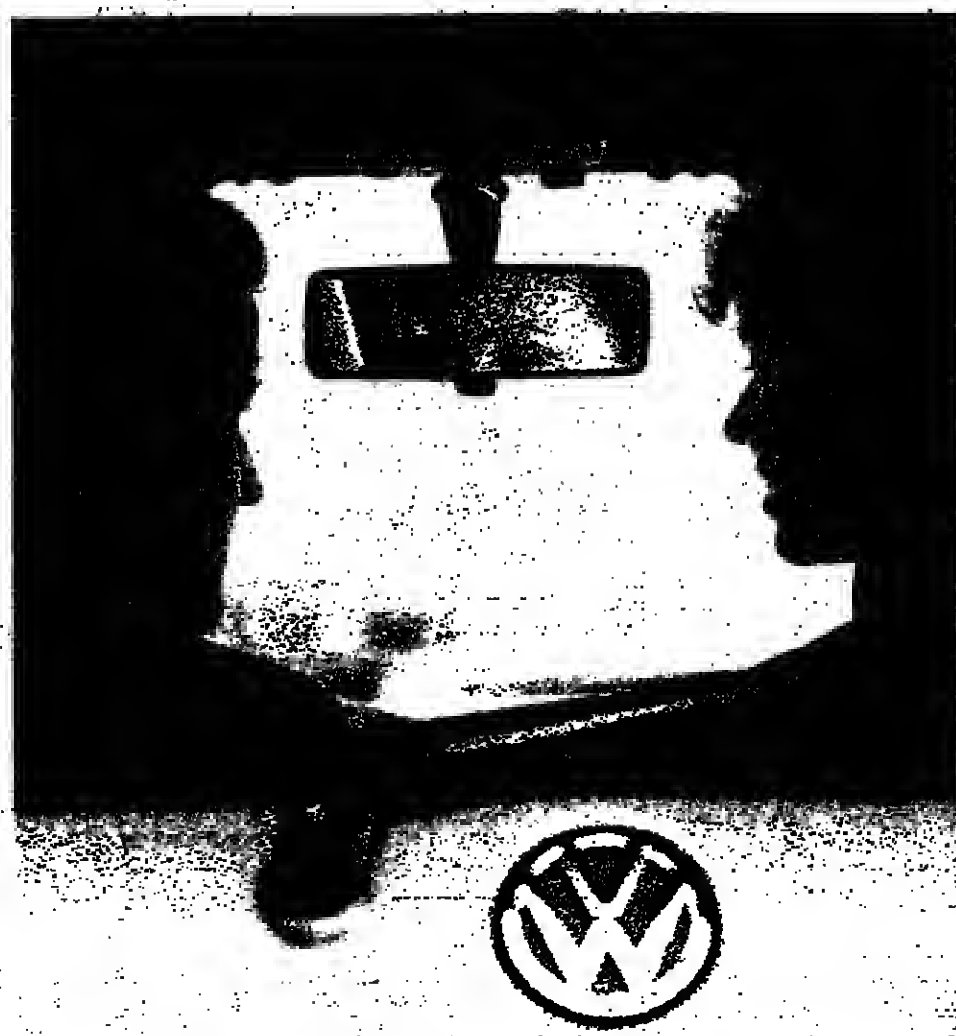
Among incidents reported to the union were an insurance sales representative mugged while collecting money and a psychologist threatened by a former patient. Judith Church, the union's health and safety officer, urged employers to take more action to prevent such incidents.



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'Valuable, perhaps literally vital, time has been lost'



Legal victory: Carmen and Barry Daniels outside the High Court with their son Rhys, 2, who will now receive treatment in Bristol.

Judges rule closure of bone marrow unit was unlawful

By IAN MURRAY

TWO health authorities broke the law in the way they closed the only hospital unit in the world ready to treat two-year-old Rhys Daniels for a genetic disease, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The unlawful failure to carry out proper consultations had wasted crucial months in starting life-saving treatment, two High Court judges said. The test-case judgment will serve as a warning that correct procedures must be followed for all the changes in the health service which are underway.

Strongly criticising the way in which the world-famous bone marrow transplant unit at the Westminster Children's Hospital had been allowed "to fade away", the judges said that this had been a tragedy for Rhys, who was diagnosed as suffering from Batten's disease over a year ago.

Unless three months of bone marrow treatment are completed before he is three, doctors have warned he will quickly start to suffer from dementia and blindness and will die by the time he is seven. His sister, Charly, 5, suffers from the disease and is already showing severe symp-

oms. "Valuable, perhaps literally vital, time has been lost," Lord Justice Kennedy, sitting with Mr Justice Macpherson, said.

Had the Riverside Health Authority and North West Thames Health Authority complied with their statutory obligation to consult instead of allowing the decision to drift, the unit would have remained viable.

Even Professor John Hobbs, the head of the unit, had been kept in the dark about what was happening, the judges said. Instead of fulfilling its duty to consult the local community health council, the authority had created uncertainty which caused vital staff to leave. Thus it was impossible to start treating Rhys after a suitable donor was found in February.

Far too late in the process a consultation document was prepared but even this was never completed, the judges said. When it was decided that it was not possible to transfer the unit as originally planned to the new Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, negotiations to move it to Great Ormond Street or Guy's hospitals began "but nothing emerged from

the ashes". Patrick Milmo QC, appearing for Rhys, had told the court that the unit had disappeared "without human intervention and control, much like an act of God".

The authority had broken the law in the way the unit was closed, the judges decided, but there was no point in issuing a declaration saying so. They also decided against making a declaration saying Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, had broken the law since she had properly delegated the task of consultation to the authority.

The judges said the boy was now to be treated at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Barry Daniels, Rhys's father, said afterwards he was "thrilled" by the judges' comments. "It has made it clear what a shambles it all was and made sure that it will never happen again."

Jonathan Street, spokesman for the health authority, said the family was owed a sincere apology. "We ought to have consulted, that is clear, but we were overtaken by events. We never wanted the unit to close and we are still actively trying to find a new home for it."

Scientists criticise research council

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Medical Research Council is managed in a rigid, bureaucratic and dictatorial fashion, according to the scientists it supports.

Central office in London is too large and operates too slowly. Research workers resent the time spent dealing with the review process imposed by the centre, and describe the organisation as "introspective, secretive, paternalistic, bureaucratic, compartmentalised, lacking in team spirit, perfectionist, slow and amateur in approach to managing".

The criticisms, published in this week's *British Medical Journal*, come only two weeks after the government's white

paper on science extolled the MRC as a model of how a research council should be run. Roy Gillett, a senior scientific officer at the MRC's Dental Research Unit, and Jenny Harrow of the Management School at South Bank University, make their criticisms after carrying out what they say is the largest study ever of the MRC's management methods.

The units have been described by the MRC as "the jewels in our crown", but the unit directors appear thoroughly dissatisfied with the way they are managed from the centre.

In an editorial, Richard Smith, *BMJ's* editor, suggests the MRC should become simply a purchaser of research, leaving management to the individuals and units supported. This model was suggested to William Waldegrave, science minister, by the Advisory Council on Science and Technology, but he turned it down.

Sir Dai Rees, MRC secretary, last night described the report as "highly misleading and sometimes inaccurate". The unit where Mr Gillett works was to be closed shortly because its work did not match up to competitive standards. "I can well understand that those whose work has been criticised by peer review feel the need to complain about the process," he said.



Waldegrave turned down model for MRC

Man faked drowning to claim £200,000

A RETIRED businessman faked his own death in an attempt to set himself up with a £200,000 fortune, a court was told.

Peter Cusworth, 66, a former hotelier and stress management consultant who lost money in the property crash, had deliberately ditched his dinghy off the Suffolk coast during a fishing trip in bad weather. Brian Altman, for the prosecution, told Ipswich Crown Court yesterday.

He was presumed drowned after the dinghy was washed up on a beach and a search failed to find any trace of him. But Cusworth was alive and well when his wife Valerie, 65, attempted to cash in his life insurance policies. He was living in a mobile home on a farm near King's Lynn, Norfolk, while his "widow" moved into her mother's seaside flat at Felixstowe, Suffolk.

No money was paid out by suspicious insurance companies, but Mr Altman said that if the fraud had paid off, Cusworth and his wife planned to "do an Asil Nadir" and disappear to a sun-drenched villa in Cyprus.

The pensioners' plot was uncovered when a policeman spotted Mrs Cusworth in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and recognised the man she met there as her "missing" husband.

The pair admitted two charges each of dishonestly attempting to obtain £100,000 from Royal Insurance and £100,000 from Norwich Union. Cusworth was remanded in custody for reports and his wife released on bail.

Nurse was sacked over mouse in sandwich

By A STAFF REPORTER

A NURSE was sacked from her job in a nursing home after being accused of putting a dead mouse in her boss's sandwich, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Deborah Wale, 19, denied the charge and told the hearing that she had suffered persistent sexual harassment by Pankaj Popat, owner of the Birch Hill home, in Lynton, Hampshire.

Miss Wale, of New Milton, Hampshire, said: "At first he was just being friendly and I didn't think anything of it. Then he would ask me if I wanted to go to casinos and nightclubs in London with him for the weekend."

Last September, she said, he had come up behind her and placed his hands on her breasts. On other occasions he had patted and squeezed her bottom.

In December, she had already handed in her letter of resignation when she found a dead mouse in the loft of the nursing home while she and colleagues were getting out Christmas decorations.

She put it on a trolley to be disposed of, but was told later that Mr Popat had found a dead mouse in his sandwich. The next day the matron told her that her services were no longer required.

"It was about the mouse incident," Miss Wale told the tribunal. "I told her that I thought it was very funny, but that I had not done it."

Mr Popat, of Harrow, northwest London, denies the allegations.

The hearing continues.

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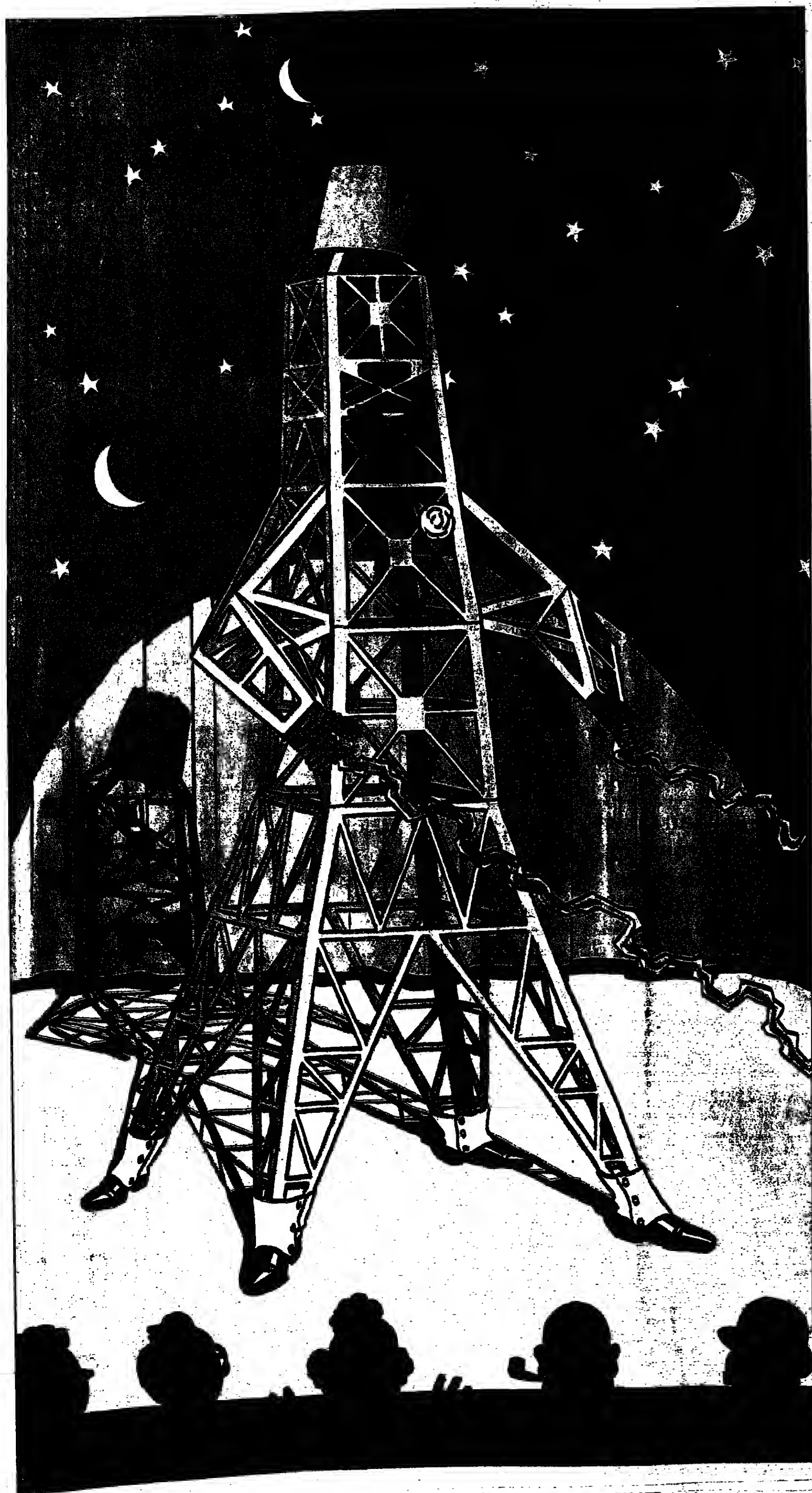
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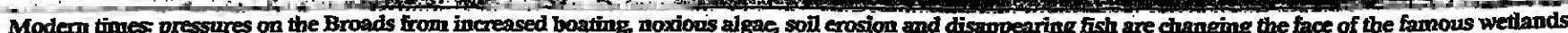
Playing

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By TIM JONES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

The rules would also impose new standards of maritime navigation and strengthen

The group expects to produce a final report on its work early next year, which will include advice to government on steps that might be taken to improve the environmental response to future oil spills.



BY MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

The algae thrive on a nutrient-rich cocktail composed of nitrate run-off from farmland, caused by the draining and ploughing up of grazing marsh for crops, and phosphorous from some

In its draft plan for the future management of the broads, released for consultation today, the authority proposes a complex conserva-

volves damming off part of the lake and temporarily removing all the fish, which are stunned with an electric



Conservationists believe the broads could be restored in this way in a programme

Many rivers are higher than the surrounding grazing marshes. Everyone agrees river banks need to be reinforced to prevent them being breached. There is also agreement that a barrier of some kind is needed to control tidal

surges. The Broads Authority wants one on the River Bure, coupled with a 2,000 acre "washland", an area of grazing marsh that would be allowed to flood to absorb excess water.

This option is backed by all the main conservation agencies but opposed by farming and landowning interests on the local flood defence committee who want a barrier on the Yare above Great Yarmouth. Conservationists say such a barrier would be much more disruptive of the natural eco-system.

There are no immediate plans to change public access to the protected areas as many lie within danger areas where live ammunition is used.

1. The first group of authors (Barnes, 1980; Barnes and Hirsch, 1981; Barnes and Hirsch, 1982; Barnes and Hirsch, 1983; Barnes and Hirsch, 1984; Barnes and Hirsch, 1985; Barnes and Hirsch, 1986; Barnes and Hirsch, 1987; Barnes and Hirsch, 1988; Barnes and Hirsch, 1989; Barnes and Hirsch, 1990; Barnes and Hirsch, 1991; Barnes and Hirsch, 1992; Barnes and Hirsch, 1993; Barnes and Hirsch, 1994; Barnes and Hirsch, 1995; Barnes and Hirsch, 1996; Barnes and Hirsch, 1997; Barnes and Hirsch, 1998; Barnes and Hirsch, 1999; Barnes and Hirsch, 2000; Barnes and Hirsch, 2001; Barnes and Hirsch, 2002; Barnes and Hirsch, 2003; Barnes and Hirsch, 2004; Barnes and Hirsch, 2005; Barnes and Hirsch, 2006; Barnes and Hirsch, 2007; Barnes and Hirsch, 2008; Barnes and Hirsch, 2009; Barnes and Hirsch, 2010; Barnes and Hirsch, 2011; Barnes and Hirsch, 2012; Barnes and Hirsch, 2013; Barnes and Hirsch, 2014; Barnes and Hirsch, 2015; Barnes and Hirsch, 2016; Barnes and Hirsch, 2017; Barnes and Hirsch, 2018; Barnes and Hirsch, 2019; Barnes and Hirsch, 2020; Barnes and Hirsch, 2021; Barnes and Hirsch, 2022; Barnes and Hirsch, 2023; Barnes and Hirsch, 2024; Barnes and Hirsch, 2025) have shown that the use of a single factor model is sufficient to explain the variation in the data. This is because the first factor accounts for most of the variation in the data, and the remaining factors account for a smaller and smaller portion of the variation. This is consistent with the idea that there is a single underlying factor that drives the variation in the data.

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Welles's version of Kafka on TV clashes with playwright's film premiere

Pinter irate as BBC upstages his Trial

By ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

IN A bureaucratic media world, the BBC has managed to outpace Harold Pinter by underpinning the release of the playwright's film adaptation of *The Trial*.

The BBC has unwisely scheduled a screening of the classic Orson Welles version of *The Trial* to coincide with the cinema release of Pinter's adaptation, which is partly funded by the corporation.

While one BBC department booked the London cinema for tonight's premiere of the new film, another planned to show Welles's film version tomorrow night. The two departments did not talk to each other.

Pinter, said to be furious at the scheduling, has always hated the idea of comparison between his screenplay and that used by Welles, which the coincidental screenings will make inevitable.

The BBC has contributed almost £1 million towards the

film's £4 million budget, banking on the star-studded cast, which includes Sir Anthony Hopkins, Juliet Stevenson and American actor Kyle MacLachlan, to make the film a success.

Those associated with the new film are worried that viewers will watch the 1992 Welles version at home and balk at the idea of another two hours of Kafka in the cinema. They are amazed at the BBC's handling of the new film, pointing out that box-office success is important if the corporation is to get a return on its part-funding.

David Jones, the director, called the planning "lousy and incompetent, not without its farcical element". He added: "I think it is an extraordinary example of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing inside the BBC."

Although Mr Jones is a fan of the Welles version, and worked with the great director on a 45-minute documentary

about the making of *The Trial*, he insisted that the new film was not a re-make and that comparisons were "not wildly helpful".

Behind the scenes, lobbying has failed to get the Welles film taken off the schedule. Charles Denson, head of the Drama Group at the BBC, called the scheduling an "improbable and unwelcome coincidence".

He said: "The BBC does not wish to upset any film-makers. We would have preferred this not to happen, but we are certainly not going to change the television transmission. I don't think that viewers who have seen the Orson Welles movie will necessarily not want to see the new one."

Pinter has long wanted to adapt Kafka's famous tale of bureaucratic entrapment. His stark version emphasises the historical context of Kafka's writing, as opposed to Welles's expressionistic treatment of it as a parable.



Not amused: Harold Pinter hates comparison with Orson Welles's *The Trial*

Children's viewing 'must be ad-free'

By TONY DAWE

A PROPOSAL to make children's television an "ad-free zone" is raised in a report published today which claims that children's health is suffering because of the sugary and fatty foods they are encouraged to eat.

The report by the National Food Alliance, a research organisation, says food adverts on children's television are dominated by pre-sweetened cereals, confectionery, fast food, snacks and soft drinks.

It criticises the Independent Television Commission and the Advertising Standards Authority for failing to protect children from "this unhealthy diet" and calls on the bodies to introduce practices "more conducive to healthier eating".

Sue Dibb, its author, said: "Banning adverts during children's television is one of the options we would like all interested parties to explore further. It has been done in Canada and it has worked there. We question whether it is morally right for advertisers to target young children."

Alternative proposals in the report include restricting the advertising of sugary and fatty foods and limiting the use of well-known characters and

personalities who "play on the loyalty and affection of children".

The report follows calls for tougher controls on food advertising by the British Dental Association and the National Consumer Council. Both the ITC and the Food and Drink Federation dismissed the latest criticisms and denied there was firm evidence that food advertising encouraged unhealthy eating.

However, the report, based on surveys of thousands of children, finds that children are more responsive to and influenced by advertising than adults, children as young as four are "brand conscious" and the more a product is advertised, the greater the number of requests for it.

In criticising the television and advertising regulatory bodies, the report says that present codes of practice and complaints procedures deal with specific adverts and are not designed to consider the cumulative effect of adverts.

The Food and Drink Federation said that strict guidelines already governed advertisements, especially those screened at times popular with children.

Eight-year ban for drink-drive racing duke

THE Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, who knocked off a policeman's hat following a chase at up to 95mph along icy country roads, when he was almost three times over the drink-drive limit, was yesterday banned from driving for eight years.

Appearing before Haddington Sheriff Court, Lothian, for sentence, the 54-year-old duke had admitted dangerous driving, assaulting the police and his fifth drink-driving offence.

The court had heard that during the chase in December last year, he crashed into a road block, drove along a pavement, roared through a town centre and hit a road sign.

As well as the driving ban, he was put on probation for 12 months and ordered to do 200 hours of community service. After the chase it was found he had a breath-alcohol level of 93 micrograms. The legal limit is 35.

Raymond Fraser, the advocate for the duke, said: "It is perhaps difficult for people who work hard and play hard not to do things to excess." Before the chase the duke had been taken to hospital with a suspected heart attack. He could not remember what happened later.

A former RAF officer, test pilot and racing driver, the duke is Hereditary Keeper of the Queen's residence at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. His brother is the Scottish Office minister Lord James Douglas-Hamilton.

Mr Fraser, handing over press cuttings, said the court should recognise the duke's driving skills and racing achievements. He had recently broken 54 diesel speed records at Millbrook, proving centre in Bedfordshire.

Woman's sex change baffles doctors

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS have been puzzled by the case of a 56-year-old woman who started to change into a man. Seven years after her menopause, which came early, she began to grow a beard and coarse, dark hairs appeared on her chest and arms. At the same time she began to go bald like a man.

The woman, whose case is described in the *New England Journal of Medicine* as an example of "virilisation", puzzled doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital, an international centre for hormone problems. She had never conceived but had a normal sexual relationship with her husband.

Tests showed a high level of androgens, the male hormones, in her blood, but doctors could not explain why their level was excessive. Dr Janet Hall, assistant professor of medicine at the hospital, said: "She had hair in places men often get it and was losing hair from the places that men often lose it." She also noticed changes in her genitals.

"In rare cases of women with very high levels of androgens they have an increased sex drive, their voice deepens and the size of their clitoris increases," Dr Hall said.

The woman finally underwent surgery to remove her ovaries. Her symptoms rapidly subsided and she recovered her female appearance. But apart from labelling her condition — ovarian stromal hyperthecosis and luteal cell hyperplasia with virilisation — doctors were no wiser.

EC changes push down beef prices

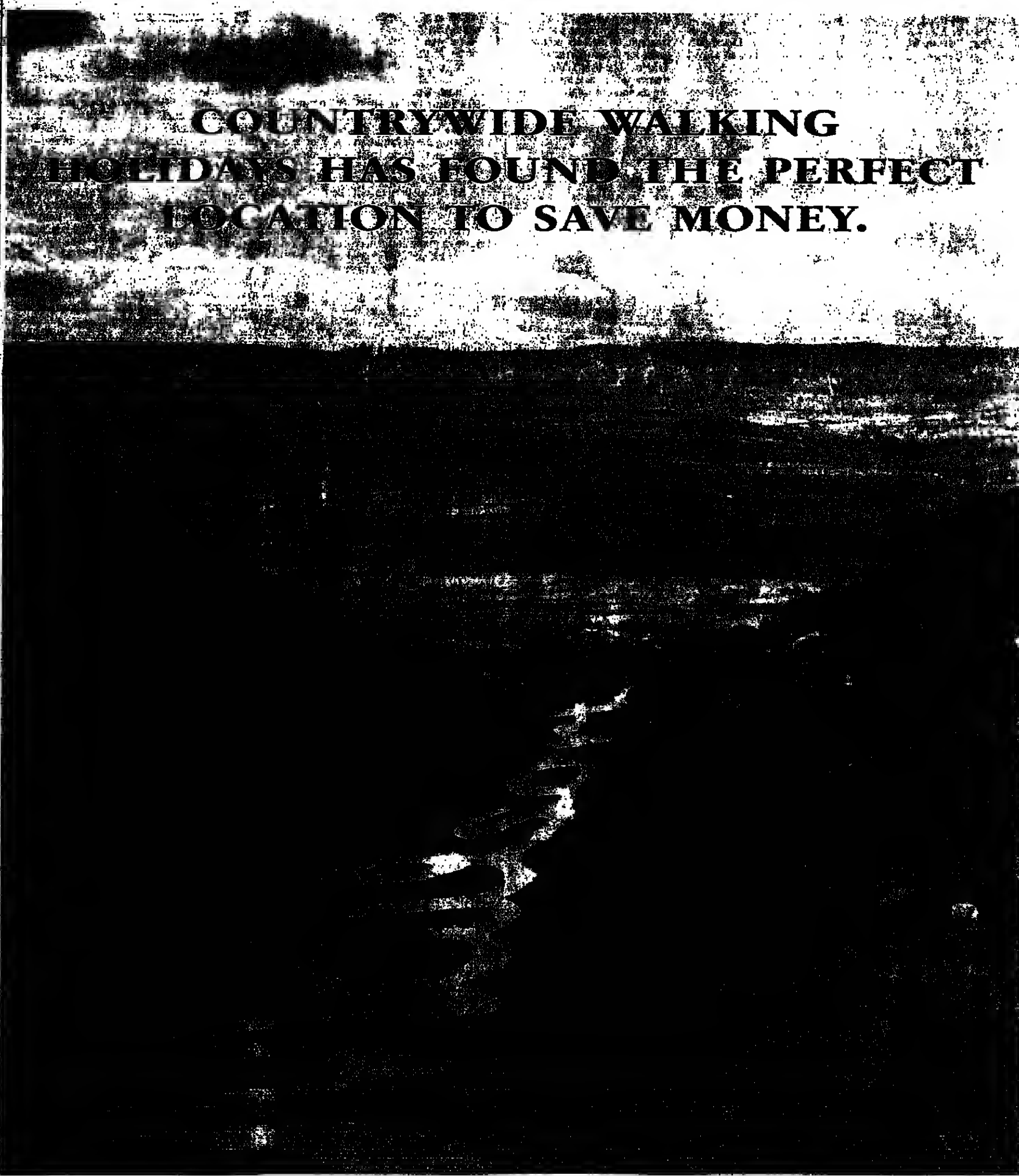
BEEF prices have started to fall rapidly as farmers come to terms with new EC regulations on payment of premiums. Galloway, has slashed £1.30 a pound off the price of rump steak, now £2.68 a pound. Sirloin at Sainsbury's is £4.75 a pound and Sainsbury has cut forerib prices to £2.18 a pound.

In time for the barbecue season Sainsbury's has made sausages far cheaper by offering thick pork and beef burgers at just £1.49 for 1.5 kilos. This means you effectively get 50 per cent extra free. Galloway offers loose gammon for 65p a pound and Sainsbury has cut 13p off smoked ham, now 69p a pound.

Sainsbury has welcomed the summer with a new range of pre-packed salads, including baby spinach leaves at £1.25 for 225g. Roquette, a peppery-flavoured leaf like a dandelion, is 75p for 30g.

Advertised best buys: Asda: rolled pork shoulder, £1.37 a lb; stuffed chicken, 86p a lb; four bacon chops, £2.24; cauliflower, 45p each; strawberries, 69p a lb. Galloway: pork leg joints, £1.19 a lb; duckling leg portions, 69p a lb.

a lb; scampi, £1.99 for 600g; smoked rainbow trout, £2.49 a lb. Harrods: free-range chickens, £1.95 a lb; French corn fed chickens, £1.35 a lb; farmhouse eggs, £1.25 a dozen; iceberg lettuce, 35p each. Sainsbury: smoked cooked ham, 69p a lb; farmhouse cheddar, £2.15 a lb; golden delicious apples, 34p a lb; mangoes 59p each; beef tomatoes, 69p a lb; little gem lettuce, 59p each. Sainsbury's pork bone in leg, 99p a lb; sirloin steak, £4.75 a lb; lamb whole leg bone in, £2.28; strawberries, £1.28 for 400g; seedless grapes, £1.29 a lb; courgettes, 55p a lb. Tesco: beef mince, £2.18; leg of lamb, £2.49 a lb; pork chump steaks, £2.09 a lb; minced lamb, £2.19 a lb; cheddar, £2.19 a lb; cod fillet, £2.99 a lb; smoked mackerel satay, 49p each; iceberg lettuce, 55p each; tomatoes, 49p a lb; galia melon, 99p each. Waitrose: boneless lamb roast, £2.59 a lb; chicken breast fillets, £6.99 a lb; German sausage, £1.79 a lb; Canadian lobster, £5.95 each; rainbow trout, £2.49 a lb; new potatoes, 72p for 2½ kilos; 100g tomatoes, 60p a lb.



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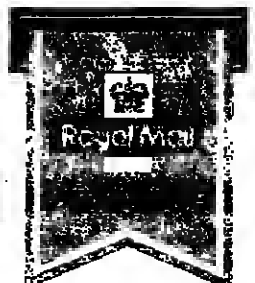
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MAILSORT

Dockyard workers stage last-minute plea for Trident

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NUCLEAR submarine workers have launched a last-minute lobby to ministers to dissuade the cabinet from switching support from Devonport to Rosyth for the Trident submarine refit contract.

The workers from Devonport, the larger of the two dockyards, have written to every minister concerned with the cabinet decision, which is expected to be announced within the next ten days.

Yesterday a group of the Devonport employees, all of whom once worked at the Chatham dockyard in Kent before it was closed in 1984 under a defence review, came to London to appeal for their yard to win the contract. "We lost our jobs at Chatham and we can't face the thought of losing our jobs again at Devonport," Mark Swain, project engineer at Devonport, said.

Mike Leece, managing director of DML, which runs the Devonport yard in Plymouth, criticised the Rosyth management and Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor and a local constituency MP, for suggesting that Devonport did not have comparable experience in refitting nuclear submarines.

He said Devonport had

carried out six "major refits" and 32 minor refits on Swiftsure class submarines and the latest Trafalgar class boats. "Rosyth has done zero as far as these types of submarines are concerned," he said.

The campaign by both dockyards to win the Trident contract which will guarantee work for about 30 years will continue right up until the cabinet decision.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, remains convinced that whichever yard he recommends to his cabinet colleagues, there will still be sufficient refit work on surface warships and commercial vessels for Rosyth and Devonport to remain viable.

Mr Rifkind anticipates that, after the row has died down, following the announcement about the winner of the Trident deal, the losing yard will soon be able to come to terms with the decision and make the necessary plans to survive. The government will guarantee surface ship work by allocating vessels to the losing yard.

In spite of criticism, repeated yesterday by Devonport dockyard workers and David Jamieson, the Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, that the government has been "dither-

ing" over the decision, Mr Rifkind is satisfied that the delay has led to a significant reduction in the cost of the contract.

The original bid from Rosyth amounted to about £500 million, taking in the cost of a new purpose-built facility. Now both bids from Rosyth and Devonport, involving the redevelopment of existing facilities, are believed to be under £150 million.

In spite of Mr Rifkind's conviction that neither yard would be forced to close, Mr Leece said yesterday that Devonport would "ultimately" have to shut down if it failed to win the Trident contract. The management at Rosyth has also warned of closure.

Alan Hunt, marine technical manager at Devonport dockyard, who joined about 40 former Chatham docks employees in yesterday's lobbying visit to London, said: "When we left Chatham we were promised a job for life at Devonport. We were told that Devonport would be refitting nuclear submarines well into the 21st century."

Mr Leece claimed it made strategic as well as economic sense for Devonport to handle Trident. The first Trident submarine will be due for a refit in the second part of this decade.

Welfare state blunts Clarke's knife

The cabinet yesterday played its allotted part in the annual public spending ritual. This is the hair shirt/austerity phase. Words such as "tough", "demanding" and "tight" were used to describe the agreed targets.

That all sounds fine, but how stringent are the ceilings agreed yesterday? There is always a slight of hand when the remit for the spending review is agreed in the summer. "Tough" targets turn out to be more permissive, as happened last year. Despite all the ballyhoo, spending totals were raised. Lower than expected inflation has meant a near 3 per cent increase in 1993-4 in real terms in the new control total. This excludes the cyclical

element in social security (unemployment benefit and related income support) and debt interest. While some departments have faced a squeeze, there have been no overall cuts in spending in real terms.

Next year should be much tighter if the ceilings stick. When published last year they allowed for real growth of under 1 per cent in both 1994-5 and 1995-6. However, an increase in expected inflation to 4 per cent a year following the devaluation has wiped out these real increases. Over the two years as a whole, spending is likely to be flat. Real growth will be held to less than 1 per cent in 1993-7.

The reality could be even more demanding. There are inexorable upward pressures from the commitment to raise health spending in real terms, from the non-cyclical element in social security spending (especially more pensioners) and from the sharp rise in student numbers. To accommodate these increases with-



in an unchanged total in real terms naturally requires cuts elsewhere.

There are no volunteers in Whitehall. Manifesto commitments exist on inflation-proofing child benefit and retirement pensions. The type of less painful cuts in subsidies that were found in the early 1980s are no longer available. Defence spending is already due to decline in real terms. And Kenneth Clarke has rejected "hotel" charges for hospital patients and charging pensioners for prescriptions.

In reality, unless some existing functions are significantly reduced, there is little scope for holding down spending in real terms. If we want a welfare state, it has to be financed. Alternatively, the state's role can be reduced, as

is now being considered by the long-term reviews under Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary. But, apart from cuts in invalidity benefits, the government is not in a strong enough political position to achieve many short-term savings.

That is what makes yesterday's complaints by the Tory right so hollow. The prize for crassness goes to John Townend, chairman of the Tory backbench finance committee, who said he was "staggered" that the cabinet had agreed to the original ceiling. He is the epitome of the party's roarian tendency, which always urges cuts in total spending without identifying specific savings apart from wage or the number of civil servants (already the

lowest since the second world war). If the right wants to be taken seriously, it needs to come up with detailed cuts which are both practicable and can be got through the Commons.

Tax increases were not mentioned yesterday. These will not be decided until Mr Clarke sees how far spending can be held down and what the outlook is for borrowing in the autumn. It is going to be a tense October and November. Mr Clarke is already raising eyebrows in the Treasury for his frankness in ruling out possible spending cuts. He may come to regret the scrapping of Budget purdah which has given his predecessors some protection when taking decisions.

PETER RIDDELL

MPs attack tax aid plan for Lloyd's names

By JONATHAN PRYNN

LABOUR MPs yesterday attacked the government's £5 million tax concessions to Lloyd's names, announced by Norman Lamont in the Budget. The assault was led by Alistair Darling, the Opposition's City spokesman, who told members of the standing committee examining the finance bill that the proposal were "deeply resented and opposed".

The government proposal which brings the tax treatment of Lloyd's in line with continental insurers, allows Lloyd's names to put aside up to 50 per cent of their profits free of tax in a special fund to build up reserves for big underwriting losses. Mr Darling criticised the concession as "the creation of a tax vehicle" that was not available to other taxpayer. Names could withdraw the tax-free funds at their convenience for reasons other than meeting losses, he said.

In response to Tory objections that the proposed scheme was a legitimate way of encouraging names to build up reserves, Mr Darling said: "One name's special reserve fund is another name's tax shelter." Lloyd's names should not be given more favourable treatment than any other people taking risks in any other section of British industry, he said.

Labour has tabled an amendment proposing that the reserves should be subject to tax after three years if they have not been paid out to meet losses. Lloyd's was anticipating large profits in future years and had already taken action to sort out its current difficulties, Mr Darling said.

He pointed out that most Lloyd's names were wealthy individuals who would not be allowed to go bankrupt because of the existence of the hardship fund or other wealthy benefactors. "Most taxpayers do not have a hardship fund," he said. The government could not allow MPs who are names to go bankrupt, he added, because of the dangerous political consequences. As far as the government was concerned, "bailing out Tory MPs is a price worth paying", he said. More than 40 Conservative MPs, some of whom are believed to be facing severe financial difficulties, are members of Lloyd's.

Geoff Hoon, Labour MP for Ashfield, said the government should extend its proposals to the less advantaged, such as pensioners. A "comparable and analogous measure" allowing workers to put aside large chunks of their income for tax-free withdrawal after retirement, would prove "extremely popular".

Major defends National Insurance rise

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MOST taxpayers will be better off as a result of lower income tax even after the 1 per cent rise in National Insurance contributions, the prime minister insisted in the Commons yesterday.

In exchanges with John Smith, the Labour leader, at prime minister's question time, Mr Major said that under the government's budget proposals taxpayers were better off "than they would have been under your plans".

Mr Smith said the Department of Social Security last week had claimed 500,000 people on low incomes would be hit by the NI increase in the Budget, "but yesterday were forced to admit that

was wrong, and the real figure was 2.25 million people". Mr Major told him: "I think you are operating under a misapprehension. Suggestions of a mistake are wrong." The government had issued figures on June 7 which related to those whose earnings fell below the 20 per cent tax band, he said. On June 16, the government had given figures relating to people whose earnings were below the 25 per cent tax band. "So naturally the figures are different," he said, to jubilant Tory cheers.

Earlier, Kenneth Clarke, in his first appearance at Treasury questions as Chancellor of the Exchequer, had also attacked the Labour leader. Mr Clarke said proposals referred to by Mr Smith

in his speech in the economy debate last week would have added £12 billion to the PSBR.

Yesterday morning's cabinet meeting had confirmed the "high priority" given by the government to reducing the public sector deficit, he said. He added that it was time for the government to demonstrate the same success in cutting the PSBR as it had in reducing inflation.

Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, accused Labour members of spreading "real anxiety and fear" when MPs questioned Treasury ministers on possible cuts in invalidity benefits. Mr Portillo said no decisions had yet been taken on the benefit, which costs the Treasury £6.2 billion a year.

Schools' opt-out loophole closed

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

SCHOOLS will not be allowed to opt out of local authority control to escape closure, Eric Forth, junior education minister, said yesterday.

New guidelines will tighten procedures to ensure that schools seeking grant-maintained status in response to closure proposals will normally be refused permission by ministers.

The move signals a renewed effort to cut surplus places in schools, wasting about £320 million a year through over-supply, in the face of Treasury attempts to reduce spending in the education department. Critics have repeatedly argued

that ministers' eagerness to promote opt-out has undermined any drive to cut the number of empty desks.

So far, almost half the 69 schools which have sought to become grant-maintained to avoid closure have won approval, often sabotaging years of complicated consultation procedures. Official estimates put the number of surplus places at about 1.5 million. John Patten, the education secretary, is committed to phasing out up to 900,000 places within four years, using the money saved to improve schools with poor results, or expand the most popular.

Mr Forth told the Council of Local Education Authorities conference in Harrogate that ministers would not allow applications for grant-maintained status to scupper sound reorganisation plans.

He said: "Given all the local sensitivities stimulated by removal of surplus school places, rationalisation can often be a difficult and challenging task for local education authorities. Our proposals should help them in drawing up robust proposals."

The number of surplus places removed each year has dipped recently — from more than 118,000 in 1989, to 93,000 in 1990 and 99,000 in 1991 — as more schools switched to become grant-maintained.

Mr Forth said grant-maintained status was not a bolt-hole for unviable schools. Although ministers were not prepared to call a total halt to all opt-out activity in areas covered by reorganisation plans, they acknowledged that some authorities might be inhibited from presenting robust proposals because of the option, he said.

The week in Parliament

House of Commons

Today (9.30pm): Debate on government strategy for science, engineering and technology.

Monday: Defence estimates debate, last day. Army, Air Force and Naval Discipline Acts (Continuance) Order.

Tuesday: Opposition debate on funding of political parties.

Wednesday: Agriculture bill, remaining stages. Council tax limitation (wales) (maximum amount) order.

Thursday: Northern Ireland Act (Interim Period Extension) Order. Friday: Debate on health and welfare of children.

House of Lords

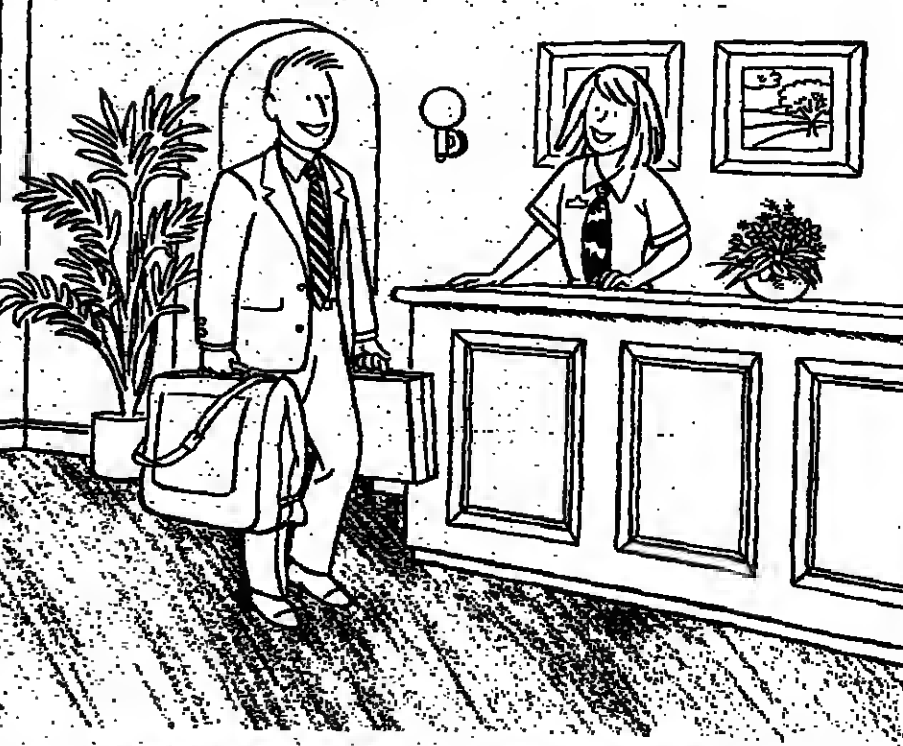
Monday: Education bill, report. Licensing (Scotland) bill, third reading.

Tuesday: European communities (amendment) bill, committee. Sexual offences bill, second reading.

Wednesday: European communities (amendment) bill, committee. Debate on Barnardo's and Youth Aid report.

Thursday: European communities (amendment) bill, committee.

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Aborigine action again

By JONATHAN PRYNN

Australian aborigines are planning to launch a new campaign to force the British government to return the Falkland Islands to them, a spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman, Captain George, said the campaign would be launched in the form of a petition to the United Nations, which would be signed by 100,000 aborigines.

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IPs attack
tax aid
plan for
Lloyd's
names

By Jonathan Power

MR R. AIN yesterday
and the government's
tax aid plan, announced
in the House of Commons
last night, was led by
Mr Darling, the chief
of the insurance industry,
who said that the plan
was "deeply resented" by
the industry.

The government proposal
to allow Lloyd's members
to put aside up to 50p
of their profits into a
special fund to help
cover the underwriting
risk of the underwriters.
Mr Darling criticised
the plan as "the crudest
of tax tricks" that was
likely to be other taxpayers
could withdraw it
from their own
pockets for reasons other
than the plan.

In response to Mr Darling,
the government said that
the plan was a legitimate
way to encourage
investment in the
insurance industry. Mr Darling
said that the plan was
another special tax
break for Lloyd's members
and that it was not
fair to other taxpayers.

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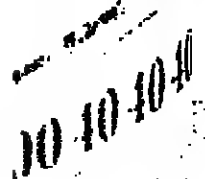
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Muslims bridle as Serbs and Croats gloat over old maps



Milosevic doubts on influence in Krajina

THE division of Bosnia-Herzegovina, along the lines proposed by the Serb and Croat presidents, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, at Geneva on Wednesday, is not new. It is 54 years old. The contours of the Serb and Croat mini-states in Bosnia bear a striking resemblance to the maps created by the Sporazum (agreement) of 1939. As royal Yugoslavia was crumbling under the pressure of the new forces in Europe, the Serb-dominated government conceded considerable political power to the Croats, leading to the formation of the Croatian Banovina.

The Croat and Serbian sides have undertaken to prepare over the next days proposed changes to the maps and the constitutional principles embodied in the Vance-Owen plan. President Tudjman proudly told a news conference in Geneva. The Sporazum 1939 has finally exposed the Croat-Muslim military alliance, based on

two incompatible war aims, to be a fiction.

President Iztbegovic yesterday rejected the carve-up of Bosnia into three mini-states, highlighting the difficulties Serbs and Croats will face in implementing a new Sporazum. In 1939, the Muslims were not considered a nation. Under Tito, however, their sense of national identity grew considerably and they are unlikely to watch the division of their state without a fight — even if it is a fight they cannot win.

But the revived friendship between President Tudjman and President Milosevic, who have been brought together in the past through their mutual affection for a divided Bosnia, faces two serious problems.

The completion of a deal in Bosnia is dependent on Belgrade and Zagreb also coming to an understanding over the status of the Krajina, the Serb-held territories in Croatia. The Vance plan, signed in January 1991, turned four

Mutual affection for a divided Bosnia brought together Serbia and Croatia in the past, but Misha Glenny believes they still face two serious difficulties

Serb-held areas into UN Protected Areas (UNPAs) which have since been policed rather haphazardly by some 18,000 UN troops. But the UN regime has been unable to implement the return of Croatian refugees to the region; nor has it begun to negotiate the restoration of Croatian sovereignty over the region, two key aspects of the Vance plan whose implementation the Croats await impatiently.

During the first three weeks of May, officials at UN headquarters in Zagreb were greatly encouraged by the development of a dialogue between the two sides which may have resolved these outstanding questions.

On May 23, however, Russia, the US and some Euro-

pean countries issued the Washington Declaration which effectively consigned the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia to history's rubbish bin. This emboldened the position of hardliners among the Bosnian Serbs. "It also encouraged the Krajina Serbs who took it to mean the international community was not interested in enforcing any of its programmes in the former Yugoslavia, including the Vance plan for Croatia," explained a senior UN official in Zagreb.

The Serbs cancelled all further talks with the Croat authorities in Zagreb and instead announced they would hold a referendum, which will take place this weekend, to decide whether to

unite in a single state with the Bosnian Serbs.

President Tudjman has made it clear, not unreasonably, that if the United Nations were unable to prevent the unification of the two territories, Croatia would have to use military means to settle the issue.

Now, however, the crisis may be averted; if President Milosevic wants to strike a deal with Croatia over Bosnia, he has to concede Croatian sovereignty over the Krajina. President Tudjman would also have to compromise by affording the Krajina Serbs wide-ranging political autonomy which he has refused until now.

On Wednesday, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, indicated that President Milosevic had set the wheels in motion to halt the Krajina Serbs' plan to scupper the Vance plan. Mr Karadzic said that the Krajina "is ready for unification and the Croats are ready to attack."

So we will probably put back unification. Which in Serb language means that the Bosnian Serb leadership is happy with what it has got from the Serb-Croat deal in Geneva and will not provoke further trouble with the Croats.

But if President Milosevic is serious about becoming the Balkan peacemaker, he still faces an uphill struggle persuading the Krajina Serbs to drop their commitment to self-determination. Earlier this week Milan Martić, the Krajina's military strongman, spoke in characteristically blunt terms. "We don't want war, but coexistence between Serbs and Croats in the same state is impossible."

What disturbs UN officials is that Mr Martić is usually considered President Milosevic's man in Koin, but they are no longer sure whether the Serbian president wields as much influence there as was once the case.

Misha Glenny is author of *The Fall of Yugoslavia*



Tudjman: proud of the new deal with Serbia

Bosnia leader calls on EC to prevent carve-up of republic

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN
AND TIM JUDAH
BALKANS CORRESPONDENT

■ The division of Bosnia by the Croats and Serbs is only a matter of time and, as Lord Owen has been forced to admit, it will bear little relation to his own map

PRESIDENT Iztbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday forcefully rejected any plan that would divide the former Yugoslav republic into three mini-states and said he refused to return to Geneva for further talks. "For us, the negotiations are over," he said during a short visit to Bonn.

Mr Iztbegovic is on an improvised tour of European Community capitals in a bid to influence the agenda at next week's Copenhagen summit. With Lord Owen admitting that his plan has run its course, with Washington swinging for and against a policy of arming the Muslims, and with the United Nations having problems drumming up the necessary soldiers to police "safe areas", Mr Iztbegovic is racing against the clock. Serbs and Croats are moving closer to a formal partition of the Bosnian republic, and there is now an awareness in Europe that little can be done to prevent it.

In Geneva yesterday, Lord Owen said that changes on the ground meant that large parts of his plan "had been ripped up before our very eyes". He hoped that parts of the Vance-Owen plan would survive, but when asked if it was dead he said: "You can't stick to something irrespective of what is happening. I want peace and it does not have to be my plan."

He angrily rejected any suggestion of resigning. President Iztbegovic's rejection of the Serb-Croat partition plan was quickly followed by a demand from Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, for an emergency meeting of the United Nations General Assembly "to prevent the dismemberment of a UN member". Mr Silajdzic said: "The peace plan known as

Vance-Owen ... only gave time to the aggressor to complete the genocide and consolidate gains by force." He added: "And they are now abandoning it. The lines drawn in blood will now be confirmed on paper under the auspices of the international community."

Diplomatic observers yesterday compared the Serb-Croat vision of the future of the Bosnian mini-states with the tribal homelands worked out in South Africa; isolated pockets that owed nothing to tribal history. By the same token, the Bosnian Muslims would be assigned a chunk of the northwest around Bihać, which would probably fall under the economic patronage of Croatia, and land around Sarajevo, including Zenica and Tuzla.

The Vance-Owen plan, criticised for its crudity and for the amount of territory awarded to the Serbs, at least provided for the territorial integrity of Bosnia, and worked out how, in constitutional and military

terms, such a loosely federated state could work.

But yesterday Mr Iztbegovic was adamant. "The authentic Bosnia, as it always was, simply cannot be divided into three parts." He emphasised that he was not, and would not be, a party to the carve-up agreed by Serbian and Croatian leaders at Geneva. "We did not negotiate — I went there to hear what [Presidents] Tudjman [of Croatia] and Milosevic [of Serbia] had to say."

The leaders of Croatia and Serbia have advanced some way in splitting the republic and are trying, in effect, to replace the Vance-Owen map with their own. An important deal was struck between the Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats on exchanging populations and property.

Mr Iztbegovic's hope is that the EC might rally round the Vance-Owen plan and that it would fall into line with those in Washington who are urging an end to the arms embargo on the Muslims. Neither seems very likely. The president was eloquent yesterday about the need to lift the arms embargo. "A lifting of the embargo would lead to a military balance which would in turn bring about peace."

The Bosnian leader lobbied hard yesterday for Germany, at least, to supply "defensive" weapons to the Muslims. But Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, seemed to indicate that the Bosnian Muslims had destroyed their case for more arms by turning against Croat forces. Herr Kohl urged Mr Iztbegovic to do all in his power to end the fighting between Muslims and Croats.



Seeking peace: Owen in Geneva yesterday



Punch line: A Bosnian woman in Vienna punches through a poster of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, blaming him for "rape and murder" in Bosnia. The incident took place outside the building where the UN was holding its human rights conference

Risking all to report on the horrors of war

By PETER COLE

YESTERDAY *The Daily Telegraph* ran a story by Patrick Bishop in Vitez which told of the protracted attempt of a British army hospital in Vitez. He had been hit by about 30 fragments of metal and red-hot plastic when the Claymore mine exploded. Captain Peter Bullock, of the Seventh Churkas, suffered a gash to his forehead and a cut less than half an inch from his left eye.

mine attached to a tree trunk in Sifluk, near Travnik. It had been deliberately detonated by a Bosnian Croat soldier and injured a British army captain as well as the correspondent.

Bishop, 40, was treated for shrapnel wounds at the British army hospital in Vitez. He had been hit by about 30 fragments of metal and red-hot plastic when the Claymore mine exploded. Captain Peter Bullock, of the Seventh Churkas, suffered a gash to his forehead and a cut less than half an inch from his left eye.

Both men were discharged yesterday afternoon.

The incident underlines the dangers to which the warring communities and the United Nations peacekeepers are exposed, and the correspondents and cameramen who send reports and pictures of the fighting around the world.

All wars produce innocent victims, the women and children caught up in the fighting. Peacekeeping soldiers are professionals, in uniform, even if they are declared non-combatants. Those who send them

know the risks. Where do journalists fit in? They are there by choice, and have a measure of protection not available to local civilians. But how great a risk is justifiable to produce coverage of war?

There is a breed of journalists who seek out danger. They believe that journalism of the essence is war reporting. None is braver than the cameraman who has no alternative but to be in the firing line.

This civil war is more dangerous to cover than more conventional battles, because

there are not two sides but several, because the conflict is forever changing in nature. The journalists have been freer agents than in the Gulf, Falklands and Vietnam wars, often able to go where their own skill and guile rather than the military allowed them. It is why the casualty list is so much longer than in more conventional wars. Where there is anarchy and chaos there is greater risk.

Peter Cole is Professor of Journalism at the University of Central Lancashire.

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US points finger at Germany

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

WARREN Christopher, the US Secretary of State, yesterday accused Germany of triggering the Balkan conflict, which has so bedevilled the Clinton administration during its first few months in office.

The Germans bore a "particular responsibility" because they pressured the European Community into swift recognition of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr Christopher said in an interview with *USA Today*. He added that many serious students of the matter think the beginnings of the problems the West faces stem from that recognition, which enraged the Serbs.

The German embassy in Washington expressed astonishment at his allegation and rejected it. It said non-recognition would have left the Muslims exposed to Serbian aggression "without even a modicum of protection from the international community".

Mr Christopher also denounced the United Nations arms embargo as a "serious mistake" that had frozen in place "a tremendous disparity in armaments" between the

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Hurd votes at milit

MILITARY action by the United Nations would be a step towards a world of peace. This is the message of the Hurd vote at the UN Security Council. The vote was 12-3 in favour of a resolution which called for a ceasefire in the Balkans. The resolution also called for a withdrawal of troops from the area. The vote was a significant step towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Balkans.

Foreign forces strike at heart of Mogadishu's tortured politics

US attack came a year too late

FROM SAM KILEY
IN MOGADISHU

THE United Nations' massive military strike against Somalia yesterday came a year too late. But it has changed the complexion of politics in Somalia in a trice.

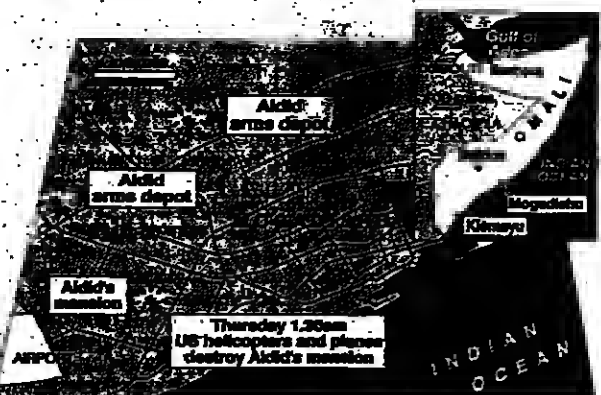
Now civilian Somalis will dare to speak out and take part in the political reconstruction of their country, freed from the constant threat of assassination if they differ with the leaders of the various groups who orchestrated last year's famine, and have held the country to ransom for two years.

It will also boost the reputation of the UN, not just in Somalia, but sending an unmistakable message to other parts of the world like Bosnia and Angola, where direct military intervention in the name of humanity has been called for.

The first cries for direct military intervention from the Somali people to the international community came in December 1991 when clan fighting in their capital reduced much of it to ruins and precipitated the famine.

Short-term hunger, because of the civil war was then exploited by warlords, in particular General Mohamed Aidid, who allowed enough food to get around the country to fill a few bellies, while simultaneously looting much of it. They also forced aid agencies to hire armed guards

Strong UN action has raised doubts about the use of violence. For Somalis, it has provided a chance to speak out regardless of the warlords' wishes



for "protection" from their own militia. The International Committee of the Red Cross spent \$50,000 a week on guards in Mogadishu alone.

By organising a series of ambushes around Mogadishu 13 days ago which killed 23 Pakistanis, General Aidid gave the UN the chance to come out with its toughest mandate yet, effectively empowering its ambassador to Somalia, Admiral Jonathan Howe, with the rights of a colonial governor.

The warlords in Somalia, of whom General Aidid is but one of at least 15, and their followers bitterly resented this. But as a shank said in

Baidoa, where in the middle of last year the streets were littered with starved corpses, "We need outsiders. We cannot rule ourselves."

He did not mean that the fractious Somalis could never rule themselves, but that they would not be able to rebuild their shattered nation until it was freed from the rule of the gun.

That freedom looked possible yesterday as UN soldiers from Pakistan, the United States, Morocco, France, Turkey and Italy assaulted General Aidid's positions and started their attempts to drive him out of the city, or simply to kill him.

Many people outside Somalia have questioned the right of the UN to act in this way. But inside the country, those who have lost families to gunmen or starvation, and the foreigners (mostly aid workers) who have watched 350,000 people perish, have no qualms.

"They should have come in and shot Aidid, and all the other warlords, a long time ago," said the head of one relief agency in Mogadishu yesterday. But aside from simply attacking General Aidid, the UN's action yesterday has after months of vacillation during the original military intervention in the American-led Operation Restore Hope, finally shown Somalis that the UN means business when it talks about disarmament.

General Aidid's ally, Colonel Omar Jess, leader of the Somali Patriotic Movement, was yesterday also believed to be with him on the run from the UN troops and helicopters over the skies of Mogadishu.

Colonel Jess's arch enemy, General Mohamed Hirs Morgan, whose troops occupied Kismayu under the noses of Belgian and American UN troops four months ago, may look upon the weakness of Colonel Jess and General Aidid as an opportunity to press his success home further.

"That would be fine by us. We've been waiting to take Morgan out for some time. The guy is a mass murderer and a war criminal," said an American major yesterday.

"All we need is the excuse." Given the show of overwhelming force displayed by the UN yesterday, it is unlikely that General Morgan will raise his head above the parapets. "It is very sad to see more fighting and killing. But I hope a short war will bring us a long peace," said Ali Mohamed Barre, a Somali translator, yesterday.

In another development yesterday the US flew 470 Somali refugees from the Kenyan port of Mombasa for resettlement in the United States, officials said. The flight, which left Mombasa on Wednesday night, was the first of a series in which 2,000 Somalis would fly to the United States over the next few months.

A US spokesman said many of the Somali refugees now in Kenya had applied for resettlement. Those with relatives in the United States have priority.

Geneva: The International Committee of the Red Cross appealed yesterday for all forces fighting in Somalia — including the UN — to respect humanitarian law and avoid civilian casualties.

With the situation for relief agencies working in the Horn of Africa nation deteriorating, the Swiss body said the rights of civilians had to be respected. In a communiqué, the ICRC asked forces not to attack civilian facilities or "use civilians for military operations". (Reuters)

Arrest ordered, page 1



Protest vote: Somali women demonstrating against American action in their country outside the Somalia embassy in London yesterday

Action in Africa may become role model for the UN

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, complained last summer that too much attention was being paid to the former Yugoslavia at the expense of Somalia.

"Ironically, with UN troops now on the offensive to restore peace in Mogadishu, many believe that Somalia should become the model for UN action in Bosnia. "We would like to see the United Nations also forceful in Bosnia," said José Luis Jesus, the ambassa-

dores to use force. UN resolutions on Bosnia authorise the protection force to take necessary measures not just to facilitate the delivery of aid, but also deter attacks against "safe areas" and promote the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb and Croat forces.

Yet the UN force in Bosnia is repeatedly intimidated and humiliated because of the recognition by all concerned that, unlike in Somalia, its 9,000 troops do not have the power to confront the local armies.

Those that have the forces to do that know that it's tougher somewhere else than in Somalia — that is the reason why they do not implement security council resolutions in Bosnia," Mr Jesus remarked. "If they were to do so everywhere else it would very much strengthen the credibility of the UN."

The key difference between the UN missions in Bosnia and Somalia is the role of the world's sole remaining superpower, the United States. In Somalia, the United States is ready to play the role of international policeman, putting down local factions and providing men, air power and equipment for the UN force. Some 4,400 of the 17,000 UN troops now in Somalia are from the United States and the top UN official in the country is a retired American admiral.

But Washington is loath to play a similar role in the larger, and more dangerous conflict in the former Yugoslavia.



dor of Cape Verde, one of the 15 members of the security council who take all key decisions on peacekeeping.

"If the statement in Somalia is to show the muscle of the United Nations to those that disregard security council decisions, then it would be appropriate to also make sure that the decisions of the security council were to be enforced everywhere, including Bosnia," he said.

In both Bosnia and Somalia, the security council has given wide authority to its

Hurd voices concern at military assault

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MILITARY action by the United Nations would not supply lasting answers to the world's problems, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday.

Britain fully supported the UN operation in Somalia and condemned the warlords who provoked conflict, Mr Hurd said. Ground, air or sea action might be needed to stabilise a situation or redress a wrong. But he added: "The UN cannot use force to create colonies for itself. The end of every conflict throws up the question 'What next?' Who runs the place when the blue helmets have gone?"

Any UN involvement had to be in support of a political process, Mr Hurd said at a diplomatic banquet for foreign diplomats. This was a pre-condition for UN participation in peacekeeping. Forces had to have a clear objective and a precise mandate. "The phrase 'something must be done' is for practical purposes useless."

Despite protestations of support, Mr Hurd's remarks

what he saw as false expectations. "None of us have any illusions about the ease with which what can still scarcely be called a country can be put back together again."

"The murder earlier this month of UN troops in Mogadishu reminds us of the dangers and difficulties. We deeply regret all loss of life in Somalia. It is right to investigate the tragic shooting of demonstrators last weekend."

He said the UN had to be realistic about its capacity. The number of possible involvements was growing rapidly, but each cause had military dangers and financial headaches. The time had come to set up a general staff to support the UN secretary-general: a core of professional military and civilian experts were needed to act as the UN's nervous system, responsible for planning, co-ordination and rapid development.

Mr Hurd also criticised the readiness of countries to call for an interventionist role for the UN without a commitment to provide troops and

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Boost for embattled Clinton

Democrats back economic package

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
IN WASHINGTON

RESIDENT Clinton scored an unexpectedly swift victory in Congress, when Democratic senators agreed on a modified version of his economic programme. The agreement saves the way for the passing of the largest deficit-reduction programme in history, which Mr Clinton considers to be the bedrock of his presidency.

The agreement on the \$500 million (£320 million) deficit-reduction package represents a boost for Mr Clinton after weeks of devastating criticism of his presidency. The agreement will pave the way for early passage of the budget before the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations in Tokyo next month. The White House hopes this will help to portray Mr Clinton on the international stage as showing successful leadership on economic issues, and that it will enable him to urge his colleagues to undertake difficult

■ Rapid progress on a modified version of the president's economic plan may signal better times for the administration

structural reforms as America has done.

Mr Clinton was so pleased by the news that he decided to hold his first live news conference on prime-time television last night. It was his second full-scale press conference this week, not including the botched event on Monday when Mr Clinton cut off a press question-and-answer session because he was infuriated by a question on the "zig-zag quality" of his presidency.

It would be premature to conclude that the Senate endorsement of most of his economic plan will signify a turning-point in the negative public perception of his presidency. However, it is as good as could be realistically expected so far.

The Democratic senators agreed to support most of the

plan, except for the \$70 million energy tax, based on the heat content of fuel and widely applauded by environmentalists. After heavy lobbying from mostly Southern energy producers, Democratic senators decided to opt for a less ambitious transportation tax which will put 4.3 cents on the price of a gallon of petrol. The full Senate is expected to approve the package next week.

In another development, Democratic senators succeeded in overturning a Republican filibuster against the president's campaign finance reform bill, helped by a few dissenting Republicans. Mr Clinton's widely applauded plans for national service have also been endorsed, with modifications, by two congressional committees.



Bearer of hope: Andrew Goba, held by Dr Donald Kohn of Los Angeles Children's Hospital, has become the first infant to undergo gene therapy for a rare inherited disease. Month-old Andrew has severe combined immune deficiency, making him

unable to cope with infections (Nick Nuttall writes). Doctors led by Dr Kohn used a new technique, modifying cells from Andrew's umbilical cord to carry the gene that produces the enzyme he is missing. It may take five months to know if he is cured.

UN threatens Haiti military with embargo

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE United Nations has given Haiti's military-backed rulers one week to reach a democratic solution to the country's political crisis before tough economic sanctions are imposed, cutting off the small Caribbean nation from all oil and weapons supplies.

The UN is fast losing patience with the intransigence of Haitian politicians who, manipulated by the army, have refused to sign an agreement for the return from exile of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically elected president, who was ousted in a military coup in September 1991.

Early yesterday an explosion rocked Petionville, a suburb of the capital, which has been the scene of several such incidents in the past few months, and gunfire was heard in the Canape Vert district of the city. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, but police set up roadblocks and searched vehicles around the capital.

At least three people have been killed and several more injured in previous explosions in Port-au-Prince attributed by the police to supporters of Father Aristide, who have denied any responsibility. A little-known group called New Indigenous Army claimed to be behind several of the blasts.

The explosion took place a few hours after the UN Security Council passed the sanctions resolution. UN officials expect that the embargo will quickly buckle the resolve of the Haitian "de facto" authorities, but observers fear it may take time and could take a severe economic toll on average Haitians, who are already desperately poor, and the ousted president's most devoted supporters.

Haiti recently received an oil shipment that topped up its reserves and it could last eight weeks with rationing, say diplomats. They said there are enough guns and ammunition to keep the army and police supplied for months.

Evans Paul, the mayor of Port-au-Prince, who is a bold opponent of the military, believes it will be a painful process. "I fear the possibility of the embargo will have to be maintained for too long, and it will be very, very hard for us," he said.

The security council resolution, approved late on Wednesday, would ban all oil supplies and military equipment from entering Haitian waters from Wednesday and require all overseas Haitian assets to be frozen. It includes no enforcement provisions, except a commitment to monitor compliance.

The UN chose to keep the weapon of a blockade in reserve. France and Canada had offered ships to patrol Haitian coastal waters as part of a blockade of Haitian ports, and the United States already has a large fleet of vessels in the area, to intercept Haitian boat people.

If sea routes to Haiti are cut, the alternative would be overland from the Dominican Republic, which is a well-used smuggling path. Observers say, however, that it would be an impossible task to transport all the country's oil needs by land.

Clinton to fly family to summit

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton is planning to turn his first visit to an international summit into a family outing.

Washington learnt with some astonishment yesterday that in addition to his wife, who would be expected to attend, Mr Clinton also intends to take his mother-in-law and his daughter, Chelsea, plus three of her teenage friends to the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo next month.

Such a group outing is highly unusual and immediately raised questions over the cost to American taxpayers, particularly coming so soon after the negative publicity from his use of Air Force One as a barber shop.

The Washington Post yesterday mocked the trip in a headline, reading "Bill and Family's Excellent Adventure". White House spokesmen, realising that the trip would provide more quips for late-night comedians, insisted that there was still no final passenger list.

But officials in charge of travel arrangements said passports were being issued and other preparations were well in hand for Hillary Clinton's mother, Dorothy, as well as Chelsea and her three friends, to join the entourage.

Apparently no instructions have yet been given about billing for Mr Clinton's guests.

The trip begins with an overnight stay in San Francisco on July 5, followed by the summit in Tokyo from July 7 to 9. After that, the Clintons will visit South Korea and may stop in Hawaii on the way home for a week's holiday.

Pepsi faces flood of can claims

New York: Consumers claiming to have discovered cans of Pepsi containing hypodermic syringes have cropped up in 23 American states during the past eight days in what could be a case of mass product tampering or, more likely, one of mass hysteria and fraud (Ben Macintyre writes).

On June 10 a couple in Tacoma, Washington, said they had found a single, unopened can of Diet Pepsi.

Malawi change

Harare: The Malawi government will call a parliamentary session to alter the constitution, which enshrines one-party rule, and it expects to hold multiparty polls this year.

Vote postponed

Tokyo: A vote of no confidence in the cabinet of Kiichi Miyazawa, due yesterday, was postponed. The motion was provoked by dissent over political reform plans.

Swearing in

Kabul: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the radical Mujahidin leader, was sworn in as Afghanistan's first prime minister since guerrillas took power more than a year ago. (Reuters)

Slow trio

Vancouver: A Canadian woman has completed giving birth to triplets 45 days after the first baby was born. Her labour was supposed after she had a 2.6lb son ten weeks early. Now she has another son and daughter. (AFP)

Guru's meditators join crime-busters

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FOLLOWERS of an Indian guru are trying pleasant thoughts to cut Washington's murder and mugging rates. About 3,000 followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi have launched a six-week experiment to show local government officials that policemen are no longer necessary. Their calming, meditative thoughts are claimed to have a unifying mental effect which can turn hardened criminals into law-abiding citizens.

The Maharishi effect is the notion of Dr John Hagelin, a Harvard University physics graduate and former employee of Cern, Europe's atom-smashing facility in Switzerland. The effect is being monitored

including the World Bank, the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and Columbia District Metropolitan Police.

"They are going to have to prove that whatever fall in crime occurs is not due to citizens' marches or one of our own police operations. They are going to have to prove that their technology is over and above," said Emanuel Ross, a statistician with the police force.

The price of mental crime busting has generated scepticism among city fathers. Chicago would have to pay about \$266 million (£177 million) for the Maharishi services. The Washington experiment might be considered something of a loss.

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A few hundred men battle in the desert to rule Baku

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN
IN KAZI MOHAMED
AZERBAIJAN

■ On the road from Baku, rebel forces and government troops are dug in. The conflict reflects growing disillusion with the Popular Front's use of power

IN THE semi-desert, west of the Azerbaijani capital Baku, two tiny armies are watching each other, their numbers dwarfed by the immensity of the landscape and the indifference of most of the population to their struggle.

After a brief counter-attack by government troops on Monday, a ceasefire is holding round the village of Firsaat, about 40 miles on the main road from Baku. But in Shemakha, 77 miles from Baku, a rebel offensive was yesterday reported to have succeeded in seizing the town.

Both the rebel forces and government troops are waiting for the outcome of secret talks between Surat Husseinov, the rebel commander, and Heidar Aliyev, the former Communist leader who has been appointed as Azerbaijan's new parliamentary leader to cope with the country's domestic political crisis. Colonel Husseinov is demanding the resignation of President Elchibey, of the Popular Front, whom he holds responsible for the current bloodshed in Azerbaijan. His forces mutinied on June 4, seizing

Gyandzha, Azerbaijan's second city.

The road from Baku to Gyandzha passes across the front line and is still open to traffic from the west. Government troops block it at the eastern end, but it was easy to evade them by taking our roads. Urduhan Husseinov, a farmer who acted as our guide, was infuriated at having his life disrupted by roadblocks of these "stupid kids", and chuckled at having outwitted them.

The opposing forces on the road number only a few hundred men on both sides, in the middle of a country of more than seven million. Some armoured vehicles have been dug in, but both sides seem to be displaying the same carelessness which contributed to Azerbaijan losing the war with Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The rebel forces now control more than three-quarters of Azerbaijan. However, they



are by no means homogeneous and certainly not under the control of Colonel Husseinov. In most places, power was seized by groups led by local leaders, notably members of the former Soviet establishment who generally support Mr Aliyev. They have kicked out the Popular Front, who for the space of one year had seized power. In Kazi Mohamed, control was seized last Saturday by activists from the Independent Azer-

baijan Party, a day before Colonel Husseinov's men arrived. The Popular Front mayor, Hussein Khan Veliyev, has been arrested.

Fazil Abumamov, the new mayor, previously held the post during the last days of Communist rule. He was a trade union official. In the neighbouring town of Ali Bairamli, the new mayor was previously director of a large factory. Just as these men are typical of Mr Aliyev's supporters, so Mr Veliyev, a former teacher, was typical of those who form the backbone of the Popular Front. A professor in Baku said: "These men represent the uncivilised, Asiatic side of Azerbaijan where, as many senior Communists, for all their faults, were closer to Europe."

Mr Abumamov described how "all over Azerbaijan the Popular Front promoted such men, with no experience, whom the people did not know or trust". He accused his predecessor of being a convicted drug trafficker.

Colonel Husseinov, 34, an ally of the former communist establishment and a millionaire businessman, is accused by his enemies of being a tool of Moscow. When Azerbaijan suffered its first defeat at

Armenian hands in the winter of 1991-92, the colonel switched his allegiance from Azerbaijan's former Communist leader, President Murtazaliyev, to the Popular Front. His most important contribution to the Popular Front government was to use his money to buy arms and pay mercenary soldiers from the disintegrating Soviet forces.

Popular Front officials now allege Colonel Husseinov was a long-standing Soviet agent. Observers believe his rebellion could hardly have succeeded so quickly had it not been for some kind of covert Russian support.

Colonel Husseinov gave part of his arms to the Azerbaijani army but also equipped a force of several hundred men, called the 709th Brigade, who are loyal to him. This unit played a leading part in Azerbaijani victories against the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh last summer.

But by February the military side had turned against the Azerbaijanis. The Popular Front, seeking a ceasefire and fearing Colonel Husseinov's increasing power, dismissed him from his military command, laying the ground for the present turmoil.



Firepower duel: an Azerbaijani gun shells Armenian positions in the war over Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian victories led to the rebellion in Azerbaijan

Yeltsin clinches power-sharing deal with the regions

By ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's legal aide said yesterday he had clinched a power-sharing deal with Russia's autonomous republics and regions that would stave off the threat of disintegration or civil war.

Sergei Shakhrai, deputy prime minister, said the 88 territories that make up Russia had found a compromise enshrining the right to local self-determination but averting the danger of tearing the country apart. Mr Shakhrai said the agreement, by transcending ethnic divisions in a country of more than 150 nationalities, marked a decisive move to prevent Russia from going the way of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia or the Soviet Union.

Mr Shakhrai also announced the creation of a new pro-Yeltsin political party, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, which he said would hold its founding congress in July or August if it won support from the regions.

In a series of concessions, Ukraine's parliament tried to

avert political turmoil in the country yesterday, enflamed by a ten-day-old miners' strike. The Supreme Rada (parliament) agreed by 228 votes to 18 to agree to the miners' principal demand—a plebiscite on confidence in the president, Leonid Kravchuk, and parliament itself. The vote is scheduled for September 26.

However, the climbdown seems unlikely to dampen discontent in the former Soviet republic. Strike leaders were yesterday demanding the immediate dissolution of parliament. Speaking to a 30,000-strong demonstration in Donetsk, the eastern Ukrainian city where the dispute has centred, Nikolai Volynko, the miners' leader, said: "If the deputies don't want to give up their seats, we'll throw them out. The strike continues."

According to strike leaders, up to 226 pits out of the country's total of 250 have stopped work. The political chaos in Kiev has led to accusations from deputies that Russia is fuelling the miners' anger.

In Moscow, Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk agreed yesterday to divide the Black Sea fleet and let Moscow dock its own navy at the disputed Ukrainian port of Sevastopol. But the leaders apparently failed to break an impasse over Ukraine's insistence on keeping some of its 1,900 former Soviet nuclear warheads, an issue that alarmed Western and Russian officials.

A joint communiqué noted that the summit agreements are subject to approval by parliaments in both countries.



Kravchuk faces plebiscite vote of confidence

Diary, page 18

Aborigines plan legal action against Britain

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

Australia's indigenous aboriginal people are planning legal action against the British government over what they describe as a crime against humanity and treason committed by Captain Cook and subsequent white settlers, following Britain's claim on the continent.

The action, announced at the aboriginal legal conference in Adelaide, reflects the profound frustration felt among Aborigines for the failure of Australian governments to recognise formally their rights as the continent's original inhabitants and for the appalling conditions most still endure. The United Nations describe these as equivalent to Third World poverty.

Paul Coe, chairman of the National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service Secretariat, said proceedings would be initiated in the International Court of Justice, although he declined to specify the damages sought. The move can also be seen as an attempt to put public pressure on Paul Keating, the prime minister, to give tangible recognition of aboriginal rights as the issue comes to a head across Australia in a series of enormous land claims.

The aboriginal claims, including one for a third of New South Wales, have been provoked by an attempt to test

last year's High Court ruling, which overturned the eighteenth-century British claim that Australia was an uninhabited continent when Cook landed. The Mabo decision, named after the aboriginal campaigner Eddie Mabo, formally recognises native occupation of Australia prior to the arrival of European settlers.

Yesterday, aboriginal delegates at the Adelaide conference attacked Mr Keating for his refusal to attend the meeting to discuss the issues raised by Mabo. Aborigines say delegates will continue to submit new land claims until the prime minister agrees to talk to them.

Cook is being cited for his role in claiming Australia, which was followed by the first fleet of British convicts arriving in what is now Sydney in 1788. The killing of the aboriginal population by settlers virtually wiped out their culture.

There has been a renaissance of aboriginal culture over the past 20 years by surviving tribes and descendants, but this has been paid lip service by Australian governments and has not brought about the same sort of recognition seen in informal treaties with indigenous peoples in New Zealand and Canada.

Leading article, page 19



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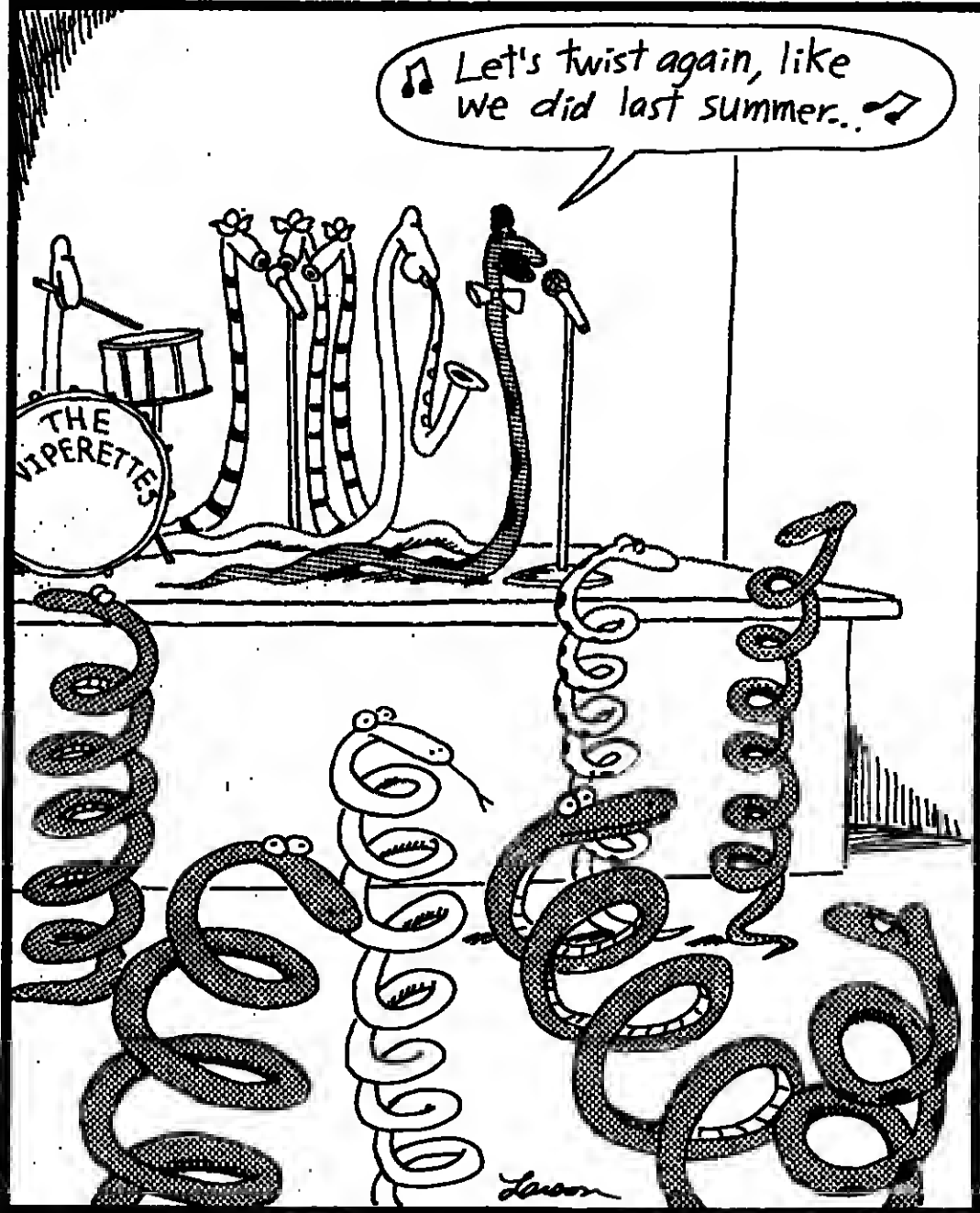
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NATIONAL SAVINGS

SECURITY HAS NEVER BEEN SO INTERESTING.

Margot Norman throws all caution to the wind and picks up a frothy little confection for her day at the races

On Wednesday, I tramped the streets looking for a hat shaped like a bucket. Preferably two buckets, actually. One to keep my ears warm, the other to catch the cats and dogs tipping down from on high. What's wrong with a broily, you ask? Nothing, in the general way of wet afternoons, but on Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot it doesn't, for some unfathomable reason, meet the rule that women must have their crowns covered. (Nor does a plastic bag over a coronet.) So on I tramped. And on. And on. What happened to Wednesday? It went, nearly all of it, on a sudden, surly slog to find the hat that would inspire the outfit, or the outfit that would inspire the hat, or — Time's winged chariot was about to run me over by now: "We've left it a bit late, haven't we, madam?" — anything to fit me that wasn't lime green or shocking pink?

It's fun when you get there, of course — Chelsea, Ascot, Goodwood, Wimbledon, even Henley. The flowers and horses always look ravishing, there's no better neck exercise than watching men's doubles, and the blur of a boat flashing by at least reminds you that not everyone's turned out just for an idle picnic. Who cares about a few raindrops in the champagne? If the gossip is good you don't even mind temporarily taking root and becoming a shortie as your stilettos sink into the turf. But — I'd better whisper this, for fear of



On form: Fiona Fullerton

a chorus of disapproval from the Duchess of Argyll (poor modern girls, they have to fit in jobs somehow, the season can't be half so much fun as it was in her day). Helena Rubinstein (there ain't no ugly women, just lazy ones), the Queen Mother (93, and for goodness' sake the woman's got flu, not a hat crisis), and for all I know Dr Johnson (though I think even he might have fired of London if all he'd seen was its damned shops) — but, is it really worth all the hassle?

A late entry in the Ascot hat stakes

It certainly wasn't the first time I went to Wimbledon. The thing was not done in style, that time. We queued in the very un-British heat for what seemed like most of the day, squeezed into the centre court crowd at last, saw ten minutes of tennis in what Dan Maskell announced was 104 degrees Fahrenheit, and then I blacked out. The rest of the afternoon was spent in the tunnel being fanned by an amiable St John Ambulance man.

Henley was marginal, too, the time we drove off with the picnic basket on the roof of the car and then had an hour to recriminate while we sat in that traffic jam approaching the bridge over the river. And Ascot? Ah, the trouble with Ascot is always the hat. The hat and the wind, the hat and the rain, the fact that it has to be a smart hat, not one of your dreamy Goodwood straws.

There is a discreet sign on the counter in the hat department at Harrods reminding customers that hats are damaged by rain. The understatement of it! If Harrods were bound by the new regulations aimed at making estate agents tell

'Rain ruins hats. There is nothing on earth less glamorous than a woman in a ruined hat'

the truth its sign would read: "Rain ruins hats. There is nothing on earth less glamorous than a woman in a ruined hat. The investment you are about to make is fundamentally unsound." Imagine a meringue in a swimming pool. It's that unsound. That's the sort of thing I was musing, anyway, as I ordered my feet out of there and away from... Oh, the most deliciously dissoluble mille-feuille you ever clapped eyes on. I retreated for a coffee to calm

my avarice, and flipped through *Tatler* and its accompanying glossy *Handbook of the Season*. This is emblazoned with the name Veuve Clicquot and has *Tatler's* logo, very small, with the famous Bystander backing away from the whole thing in the bottom left hand corner. I'm not sure he approves of Veuve Clicquot's attempt to expand the British Season from the Grand National in early April right through to the King George Chase at Kempton after Christmas, taking in en route every possible occasion for a bottle of fizz.

It was heartening, though, to see how many hatless occasions were listed. No need for all that at the Royal Academy, or the Grosvenor Antiques Fair, or any of those jolly balls. Nor at Glyndebourne, whose absence this year has given the merry widow's minions a chance to list a very glut of musical picnic spots. I shall miss Glyndebourne, all glorious song, garden and galoshes, with the piquant bonus of a chance to wander backstage in the interval and discover some of the mechanics of the great illusion.



Top-hole: Suzanna Lorenz

The glittering chandeliers in *La Cenerentola* were, I remember, upon closer inspection, a triumph of fuse wire and cling film.

I hope I haven't left it too late, madam, for Garsington or Aldeburgh or Clonier Opera Farm, near Congleton, which coincides next month with the Buxton Festival. I won't make it to Castleward, just by Belfast on Strangford Lough, but this just may be the year I get to Wexford in

October, quite possibly in fur-lined Wellington boots.

Ah, wellies. Won't do at Ascot, and neither will feathers. I tried feathers one year, all frothy and delightful. Not ostrich, I think, must have been a bird from even drier regions, as it would have looked sorer than a seagull in an oil slick under the conditions prevailing that summer. It is hard to keep one's dignity underneath a suddenly-bald straw soup plate with a ring of wet feathers plastered to one's brow.

Oh, if only the Hat of Hats had survived. It was the Hat that Walked by Itself, a vast black sail of a thing with an amature to anchor it, bought for a daunting royal occasion and fulfilling perfectly the true requirement of a hat, namely that it render the wearer invisible. I was ridiculously nervous, but that hat was better than Valium. It carried me through the inevitable downpour and even managed to cock a snook at a crowd of workmen who shouted: "Grand titer, love, all it needs is a bit of guttering round it!"

It died in the end, though. Hats do, eventually, be they never so tenderly wrapped in tissue and tucked in a hatbox on top of the wardrobe. They languish, and gradually flop. Perhaps they have souls. Deep breath, return from reverie, five minutes to closing time. God forgive me, it'll have to be the mille-feuille. You never know, the sun might even shine.

In praise of the second

The rites of June are upon us. Never mind John Patten's nefarious designs on seven-year-olds, this is the universities' testing time: the annual exercise in separating sheep from goats that too often turns into a slaughter of the lambs.

Look at the statistics for Oxford alone: more than 200 attempted suicides in the past 14 years, at least 30 per cent above the national average. The pressure of facing final examinations leads to a rash of nervous breakdowns, particularly at Oxbridge and especially among women, who still seem to feel under greater pressure to excel.

There is nothing new about this. Evelyn Waugh, working as a prep-school teacher a few years after coming down from Hertford College, Oxford, recalled that examination nerves in his day were covered up by the affectedly languid com-

Student politics, journalism, acting, champagne and sex — this is what university is for, says Peter Millar

ment. "With any luck... I may scrape a second".

That, according to Waugh, was the standard line of anyone hoping for a first. He admitted to using it, but ending up with a third. In *Brideshead Revisited*, which, even before the television adaptation, became the bible for those of us searching for nostalgic Oxford role models in the depressed late 1970s, Charles Ryder's pompous cousin, Jasper, advised: "You want either a first or a fourth. There's no value in anything in between. Time spent on a good second is time thrown away."

He was only half-right. Adversely perhaps, "gentleman's results" — once the refuge of the rich but stupid, macho rowers of much brawn but

very little brain, and the bone idle — have long since been abolished. But a first, apparently the crowning glory on a peerless academic career, is for all but future dons real proof of a good time wasted.

Cousin Jasper's assertion that a "good second" was a bad idea was based on the fact that then, as until the 1980s, Oxford did not follow other universities' practice in awarding two categories of second-class honours degree.

A second was a second. This had the result, grossly unfair or a magnificent advantage depending on one's own results, of allowing everyone to claim they had "narrowly missed a first", even if they

had closely avoided a third. "Vivas", the oral examination used to split hairs with candidates on the borderline, could, if one ended up with a second, be claimed to have been at the upper end of the spectrum.

The "unfair" argument was a major factor for change. An inordinate amount of effort is now expended on getting into the "top half" of the second-class division. This has produced an academic snobbery among those who end up with a 2:1. In Cambridge these days a 2:2 is known as "a Desmond", an oblique reference to South Africa's thereby eponymous Archbishop Desmond Tutu (actually a 2:1 divinity graduate, of King's College, London).

Dividing the second class is

a preposterous distinction. Statistics show that the bulk of candidates in university finals are neither extremely brilliant nor extremely dim. A vertical graph of results narrows at top and bottom and bulges at the middle. To draw a line through the thickest point is to make the most arbitrary of distinctions. But that battle has already been lost. The point is that second-class is not necessarily second-rate.

Even those who have managed the feat of leaving university with a first-class honours degree will, if only under pressure, usually agree that the most crucial factor is the sheer amount of work.

That is not to say that work alone is enough. It may be impossible, or at least extremely unlikely, for even the average student to walk away with a first simply through hard graft.

It is also, however, almost impossible for a brilliant student to do so without having frittered away hours sizing in libraries engrossed in a single subject while ignoring almost everything else of value that a university has to offer: student politics, journalism, acting, cheap champagne and sex.

This applies even to those who are initially seduced by the idea of an academic life but never quite get the hang of doing the work. John Benjamin, studying divinity at Magdalen, fell in love with "Balkan sobranics... tokay and sherry".

This left little time for work, with an outcome that terminated his Oxford adventure at the preliminary examination stage. "Failed in Divinity," he lamented. His tutor had doubtful words of comfort: "You'd have only got a third."

Richard Ingrams, a founder of *Private Eye*, also got a third, and John Mortimer, the barrister, playwright and novelist, got a "war degree", which he has described as a "utility BA" with "luckily for me, no classes".

There is a certain braggadocio about admitting to a third or similar from the safe vantage point of a successful subsequent career. Great successes who got thirds are wont to admit it almost as freely as those who got firsts and drop the fact into every obliquely relevant conversation.

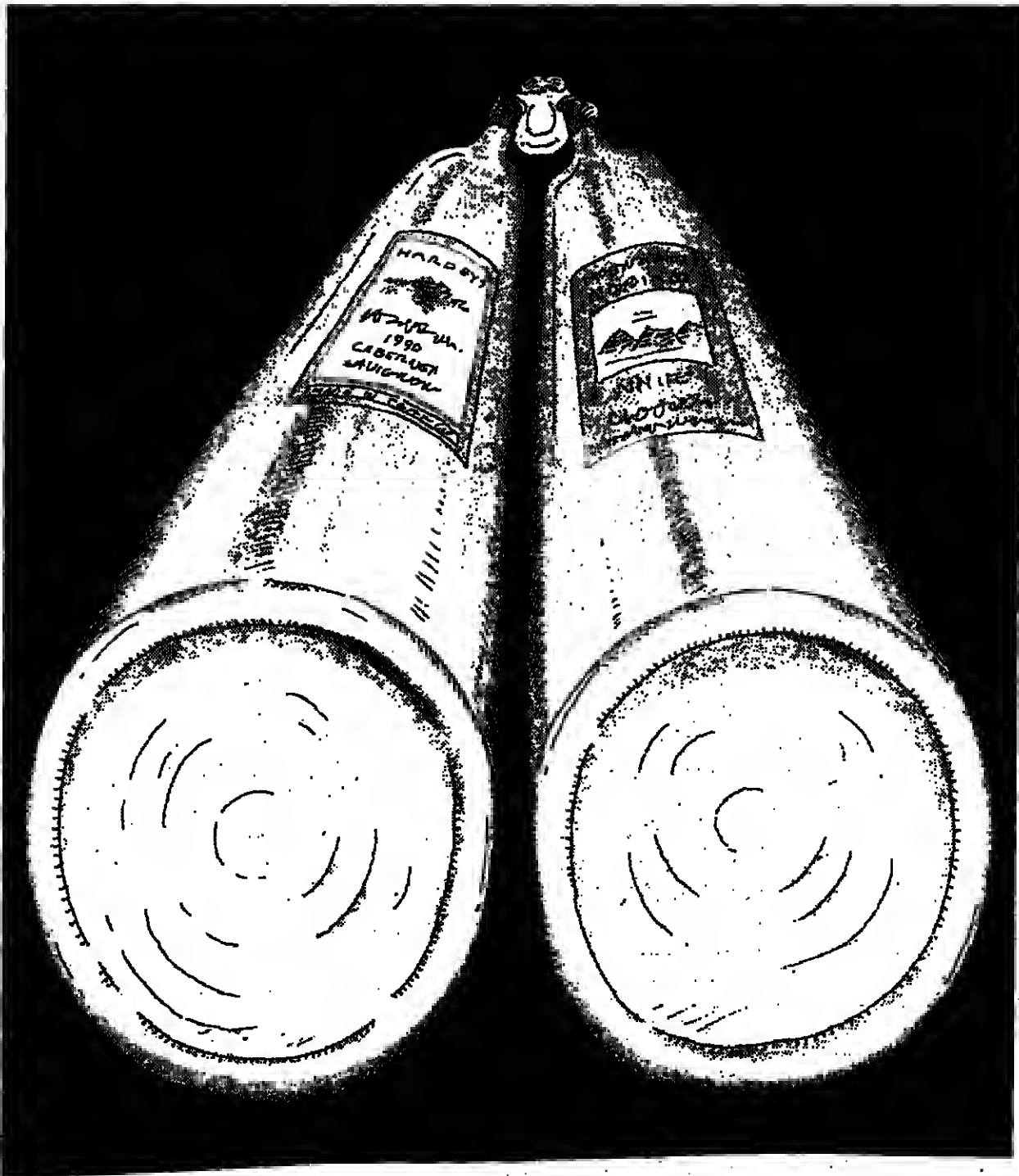
Martin Amis, the novelist, who boasts "a formal first, coming third in that year" paints a grim picture of the final-year "life of a gnome" that produced it. "I rose at 6am, drank a good deal of coffee (real) coffee by now, worked until 8, went into college for breakfast, took my seat in the college library by 8.45, worked until 1, had lunch in college, took my seat in the college library by 1.45, worked until 7, returned to the lifley Road (where he had college accommodation), worked until 9, prepared for myself a Vesta Beef Curry... (not a single item of genuine - nutriment...), returned to my desk and worked until 1am."

And was it worth it? The reason most "firsts" feel obliged to remind the world of the fact is that in later life none ever asks.

"Seconds", on the other hand, rarely feel obliged to justify themselves either for having slaved over textbooks to the detriment of their social lives or having done unexpectedly badly. Most undergraduates know by their third year



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Why should Nicholas Coleridge, outrageously successful at 36, still need to vaunt his rat-like cunning?

In pursuit of the tycoons he began by buying 15 shares in each of their companies

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

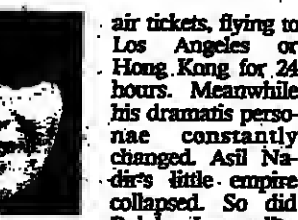
YOU might suppose that from his lofty perch in Vogue House, where he is at 36 the managing director of Condé Nast, it might have been a smooth process for Nicholas Coleridge to ensnare 30 maverick press barons across the globe for his immensely enjoyable new book, *Paper Tigers*. But it required resources of intrigue, deviousness, flattery and the rat-like cunning which the late Nicholas Tomalin said all journalists should possess, and which Coleridge has in plenty.

His four-year pursuit of the tycoons began with the near ploy of buying 15 shares in each of their companies. This brings him regular dividend cheques of 5p and enables him to write, apropos the Maxwell Communications crisis, that "almost the only three remaining shareholders seem to have been Robert Maxwell (97,102,080 shares) Goldman Sachs (24 million shares) and the present author (15)".

Since most failed to reply to his letters, he would shrewdly write again, telling them that Kay Graham, owner of the *Washington Post*, had said his book would be worthless without their participation, adding "She also told me such an amusing story about when you were competing for the same paper in Anywhereville, Ohio—but it may just be her side of the story..." This worked a treat.

Then my assistant Julia has a way of becoming incredibly close telephone friends with their PAs, and would fix London theatre tickets for them, by which time it was merely a formality that my name would appear in, say, Otis Chandler's diary.

Luckily he has always had a cavalier approach to buying



air tickets, flying to Los Angeles or Hong Kong for 24 hours. Meanwhile his dramatic persona constantly changed. As his little empire collapsed. So did Ralph Ingersoll's. He had just seen the Fairfaxes in Australia when they sold out to Conrad Black. And Maxwell died, but not before he had advised Coleridge to drop Murdoch: "He will be out of business before your book is published. Trust me."

We sit in Coleridge's bright yellow drawing room at breakfast time, with two gas log fires ablaze. I first met the boy Coleridge on the *Evening Standard* when he was just out of Eton, Cambridge and *Tatler*. He was sweetly deferential, despite being so clever — one novel out already — and so rich it was said his father had "settled a million on him", so his weekly column was a hobby. He would write the glossy magazine kind of story that involves attending a dinner party, then reporting the theme of the conversation as a sweeping new trend, labelling it The New Chastity, etc.

But he also set off to travel the world in 80 days like Phileas Fogg, managed it in two days less, wrote a hilarious book (pre-dating Michael Palin) became Young Journalist of the Year, and after that we did not see him for dust. He glided smoothly into the editorship of *Harpers* at 29, and into the managerial suite of Condé Nast at 34. This made him an object of curiosity and envy: people were slightly relieved to learn he had gout, and was fast losing his hair.

And profits still grub for flaws or failures: he had been asked, this week, "Are you getting divorced? Why are you



Object of curiosity and envy: Nicholas Coleridge at Condé Nast. In his book he notes the "distrust, cynicism and one-upmanship" of press barons towards each other

so obsessed by your wife? Are you vain? Is your father a cold man? Why are you so protective of him? I sense some past hurt," and so on. Alas, the Coleridge family (he is eldest of three sons) is unwrapped by scandal, rebellion or misfortune. Coleridge père, David, former chairman of troubled Lloyd's, is now thankfully out of the public eye.

BUT Coleridge can assume a wounded air if mocked, not when Philip Norman calls him a stuck-up little twerp, but by real friends like his classmate Craig Brown, who parodied him with a spoof *Spectator* notebook about how tiresome it was to emerge from the theatre and stumble over a beggar on one's way to the Escargot. Superfuous, really, since Coleridge so often parodies himself.

In one such diary, he complained that while at a weekend house-party in "Pythley Hunt country", he and fellow guests had to cook for themselves. They had driven into Daventry with their cheque books and a simple shopping list: "A large sea bass, or brill; fennel and fresh basil; some *chèvre* and *chaume*." Naturally this fanciful foodism hadn't they read Katharine Whitehorn's warning that cooks cannot be confident of an

aubergine north of Watford? was greeted with stupefaction by the Northamptonshire hay-seeds.

"Terribly embarrassing," he chortles. "The next week, the Daventry evening paper devoted five pages to the furious reaction of local tradesmen, under the headline 'Daventry Shopkeepers Say Naff Oil Coleridge' and the editor of the *Spectator*, Charles Moore, made things worse because when telephoned by a reporter from the Daventry paper he said 'Excuse me, but shouldn't it be pronounced Dainty?'"

He has been "fixated" on the glamour of glossy magazines since he was in sick bay at prep school and his mother sent him a pile of *Vogues*. He likes their smell. He likes their monthly rhythms. He likes writers. I ask about A.A. Gill, a new name in *Tatler*. "Ah! New cookery writer, very clever. My wife has just done a course at his flat above McDonald's in Kensington."

The exquisite Mrs Coleridge insists that now his book is done he must spend weekends doing fatherly things with their infant sons Alexander and Freddie. It was Georgia Metcalfe's sparkling green eyes and "an enthusiastic smile that made my heart leap" when they first met, which caused him to pursue

her, by romantic subterfuges, to Jaipur — as told in his short story, "How I Met My Wife".

There have been many books about the press lords — distant, mythical figures whose influence on their journalists is widely overrated — but nobody has observed the beasts so keenly or so amusingly. Rupert Murdoch on a Sunday morning in freshly ironed jeans. The dichotomy of Conrad Black's face — the mouth sardonic and humorous, the eyes "with more than a scintilla of callousness".

Coleridge is a faultless recorder of the nuances of their speech, and the often hilarious details of their lifestyles. Invited to swim in Robert Maxwell's pool he discovers a cache of swimming costumes labelled "Stout Men's" including

Maxwell's vast trunks. Dean Singleton's boardroom table in Dallas is Chipendale, boasts his secretary, "It's French Riviera. Purchased from the French Riviera itself." This remark kept Coleridge in stitches throughout the flight home from Texas.

BEHIND the barons' chivalrous solidarity, he notes, lurks "distrust, cynicism and one-upmanship". He found that Murdoch was the most admired by the others, only partially explained by the fact that his vanquishing of the print unions had so enriched them all. Conrad Black's pronouncements about schmoozing sleazeballs were the most colourful and orotund: "One of his answers ran to four and a half pages, and each para-

graph was like a Russian doll, with layers of complex subordinate clauses."

He does not subscribe to the view that proprietors should never contribute opinions to their papers. "I rather enjoyed Conrad Black's outburst about skirt lengths. People like a flash of maverick glamour up there."

Indeed, it puzzles him that proprietors are so reluctant to impose moral views, or even to come down from their rarefied upper floors with the bushed carpeting and extra wide corridors, to meet those who only sit and write. "Even those who claimed to like journalists rarely saw one, except their editors — which is like claiming that by lunching with William Rees-Mogg one was in touch with the shop floor."

Coleridge's Sloane, fogeyish courtesy is so ingrained that even his waspish remarks are couched in an expression of furrowed perplexity ("I can't quite see the point of X... can you?"). Mention one of his acrimonious sackings, and he nervily changes the subject. Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery. He wishes Britain could be a less careworn and more, a more gleeful nation.

And he can mock himself. I had mentioned that his spelling, despite his expensive education, is atrocious; and when he later had to pass on a telephone message he left it on my windscreen: "Valery Pleeze wring hoard becoz..."

● Excerpts from *Paper Tigers* (Fleming, £17.99) will appear in *The Times* on Wednesday.

Has pop music died of old age?

Reunions are a symptom of an industry living in the past

Reunions may be hard to do, but getting back together again, it seems, has never been easier. This week, Simon and Garfunkel announced they were reforming for a series of concerts in New York next October, the latest in a long line of bands to get on the reunion roller-coaster.

Over the past year, pop icons as diverse as Velvet Underground, Madness, Cream and Lynyrd Skynyrd have all resurfaced to perform to ecstatic audiences, often too young to remember them. 10cc is touring Britain. Even Paul McCartney has hinted that the three remaining Beatles may play together again.

What induces bands, who

often split up acrimoniously, to have another try? For many, the answer is obvious. "It is the soft, squishy feeling of a huge, fat packet of cash in my back pocket," said Suggs, the lead singer of Madness, when he performed in Finsbury Park last summer.

But for band members who have gone on to even more lucrative solo careers, the temptation to do the time warp is less understandable. When Cream broke up in 1968, after a series of fist fights on stage, they were not speaking to each other. Since then, Eric Clapton

has gone on to spin out a series of rock classics, such as *Layla* and *I Shot the Sheriff*. Yet when the band was invited in January to join the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame in Los Angeles, he said yes. "Playing together felt as good as we remembered," said Jack Bruce, the bassist.

According to Donald Clarke, the editor of the *Penguin Encyclopedia of Popular Music*, the desire to reform is about far more than money. "Often the friendship between these guys goes back to when they were ten years old. They can't stay away from each other ever, whatever their differences."

For many bands, the seventies revival has meant a double dose of fame. Along with the return of bell-bottoms came the sound of disco divas such as Sister Sledge. And if the original singers refused to be good sports, then "tribute bands", such as the phenomenally successful *Bjorn Again*, who impersonated Abba down to the last false eyelash, sprang up in their place.

Mr Clarke says that reunions and revivals are inevitable. "The whole pop and rock industry has been riding on the back of the baby boom for a long time. They are still the largest group of consumers and they want to listen to the kind of music they grew up with."

things trying to relive the past sweat next to teenagers trying to find a new future for rock music. Some bands, such as the recently reformed Velvet Underground, have, like James Joyce, achieved more recognition after their demise than in their first life. Audiences going to see them now will do so in the knowledge that they are watching the artists who inspired everyone from David Bowie to Duran Duran.

Mr Clarke is delighted that the spirit of the past is being kept alive. "I feel such an old fogey when I hear that there are Paul McCartney fans who do not know he was a member of the Beatles. It's very useful for the younger generation to discover past musical values."

Jeremy J Beadle, author of *Will Pop Eat Itself?* (Faber & Faber, £7.99), disagrees. "I think that all these old guys are getting back together is very sinister. It is a sign of total laziness and greed on the part of the big record giants." He believes that pop music is grinding to an imminent halt. Number one in the British charts this week is UB40 with a reworking of *I Can't Help Falling in Love with You*, which is a reworking of the French folk song *Plaisir d'Amour*.

The problem is that popular music is, by definition, limited. "As long as a musician uses straight melodies and popular rhythms they are in the mainstream. When they become more recherché, no one will buy the records."

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Janet Daley



■ Whatever happened to the idea of neighbourly solidarity and a good clip round the ear?

The town of Harleston in Norfolk is an unlikely setting for a lynching. So something seemed seriously amiss when two respectable men slammed a youth into the back of a van and threatened to turn him into a living torch. Duncan Bond and Mark Chapman had, they said, reached the end of their tether. An epidemic of burglaries had swept the town and they were in little doubt about who was responsible. So they took it upon themselves to sort out the worst delinquent. Hence the bloodcurdling scene in the back of the van which accomplished the intended object of scaring a teenager out of his wits.

What it also accomplished was landing Bond and Chapman in prison for five years. The courts took a serious view of their idea of impromptu justice. Although they had done no physical harm to their victim, the two men were guilty of kidnapping and threatening behaviour. But given the lack of actual bodily damage, it is clear that Norwich Crown Court was expressing most concern about a principle: enforcing the law is not for amateurs. However great the frustrations of private citizens, they must not, as pious judges are wont to put it, take the law into their own hands.

Parents and teachers used to present a solid front

Well no, of course not. We are not living in some frontier state in which social control is in the hands of the mob. Even when the anger of ordinary people is properly justified, there are obvious dangers in permitting the forces of law to look the other way while vengeance is meted out in dark corners. Even if outright anarchy did not ensue, there would be a risk that this *laissez faire* attitude might be selective: what if the law decided to turn a blind eye to racist or homophobic vigilantes?

But even granting all that, there is something not altogether wholesome about what Bond and Chapman, who were both of previously good character, represent. Indeed, their five-year sentence has produced an impressive degree of public outrage, as well as expressions of concern from their MP, who happens to be a cabinet minister, and — most interestingly — from Alan Evers, the chairman of the Police Federation.

Most of the agitation has been on the grounds that what the men actually did, as opposed to what they wanted they might do, was too trivial to warrant such severe punishment. But what also needs to be said is that their action harks back to what was once seen as a perfectly sound and decent instinct among adults to police their own community.

Without giving way to hopeless nostalgia, there

was a time, within living memory, when very young toughs were kept in line by neighbourhood women in the first instance, and when they got too big for that, by rather heavier-handed men. A rumour on the street used to bring a league of grown-ups out of their doors to investigate and chastise. Parents and teachers presented a pretty solid front to juvenile misbehaviour. If you got into trouble at school, the elderly will tell you now, then you hoped to God that your father would not hear about it or he would take it out of you at home as well. Parents who failed to support the community consensus about what kind of behaviour was acceptable were condemned as "bad lot". The social sanctions for failing to keep up your responsibilities to the neighbourhood were maintained with fairness and unquestioned self-righteousness.

Of course, those saintly judgments were sometimes intolerant and frequently small-minded. But how do their limitations compare to the tank-cowdies with which we live now? I have seen grown men cower behind their newspapers while pre-pubescent children marmaladed through a suburban railway station. On housing estates, gangs of eight and nine-year-olds reduce property to dereliction while self-respecting adults walk past or peer out of their windows.

And, of course, these adults feel themselves to be victimised. If they intervene with the kind of force that would now be needed to put a stop to this endemic vandalism, they are likely either to be injured themselves or be hauled up for assault by the children's parents. When things have come to this pass, it is almost impossible for any one adult to step in. And why has it come to this? Because the children sensed long ago — probably when they were tiny and happily toddling along behind their big brothers — that there was nobody in charge. Any inclusion of authority now comes as an affront.

And their parents, who feel too beleaguered or too isolated to deal with them, throw their hands in the air. "I can't control him," they say. And neither can the police, because he is under age or simply because they cannot be present at every single anti-social act in handing over responsibility for every species of misbehaviour to the agencies of the law, we are driving ourselves to desperation. And so the kind of justice which once lived confidently on every street must now huddle nervously in the back of a van.

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways...



"SUNG FROM THE SAME HYMN BOOK" JOHN MAJOR

Timed to the last tock

The latest clock is guaranteed not to lose a second in a million years — in your money back — but will the universe still exist then?

Well there is always now. If you know where to look for it, I looked for it in Washington, DC, and I was rewarded with this item almost invisible in a square inch of *The Times*.

An atomic clock which is so accurate that it will neither gain nor lose a second in a million years has been unveiled by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Now the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, says that it has constructed a clock that will not lose or gain a second in a million years (which you may like to know, comes to 31,557,000,000 seconds).

Only you, you, I am truly sorry to have to bring the thing up, they have forgotten something rather important: what happens if the heart whose job it is to wind this clock, roars, drags, or dies? This wedding anniversary, and, over-looks. No doubt the NIST will have given him an alarm clock, but they could hardly have given him one of the not-a-second-but-a-million-years kind, if only because doing so is that reason would be rather tautological.

Moreover, the NIST has more problems than that with its super-precision clock. I have to say that it is something like impotence for them to say that the clock will be a second out in a million years, whatever it is doing now. How do they know what will be going on in the universe in a million years? More, what might time itself be doing, to confound the experts of today with the unimaginable conditions of A.D. 1,001,999?

Man, in his presumption, hopes time to human life. I have been able to believe that there is a real order to things, and that all this, and we are obviously living through time as we know it, and that time is something that can be said of the weather, and at one time we claimed that life is governed by it, except at the most prosaic level.

The mystery, of course, is why time cannot go backwards, what really makes the aged the ability to grow younger, though even science fiction has a problem when the reverse

happens. I have been fascinated by the speed of light: he took up his position, at dusk, on one side of a valley, and stood at the other. With a system of bucketfuls and stopwatches, he tried to pin down the elusive, and, in his cosmos — something answer. Mind you, when Michelson and Morley, early in the 20th century, actually did it, they must have been as astonished as Leonardo himself would have been. But I seem to remember that there is supposed to be a contender in ancient Greece who got very close to the magic number: 186,000 miles a second.

I have remembered — as who hasn't — the great thought, with which Pope offered Newton homage (Pope wrote it for Newton's epitaph): "Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night: God said, Let Newton be! and all was light."

Unfortunately, I have also remembered — as who has? — the scandalous modern addition to the great salute, which goes: "It could not last: the Devil, howling ho! — Let Einstein be! released the stars quo."

It is obvious that Shakespeare was fascinated, perhaps even obsessed, by time. Again and again he rolls the word round his mouth, his mind, even his soul. Antiquity, time he called it, and courtier and devoting time, and shuttling time, and envious time, and calculating time, and wasting time, and the old common arbitrator time, and precious time, and the lightness of time. He tells us that time is a waller at his back, that time is fashionable, that the time is out of the joint, that time is the great physician that time takes survey of all the world. If even he could not stop time, or turn time in its tracks, or change time, or demand a better time — why, what chance have we to halt the moving finger, let alone cancel half a time?

What is the time that gnaws? I did this, I failed to do that. No, I do not weep for a new life, if I were given one I would be quite likely to do the same things all over again. But day, another hour, to take back that word, to take that missed chance, to take that other path: to take that pain away. Not all thy tears wash out a word of it.

And now we have a clock that they tell us will be showing the right time a million years hence, though they do not tell us what it is the use of it, much less tell us what use it will be a million years hence. Will the very idea of time have disappeared? If so, those lunkies with their million-year clock will be looking pretty silly. But I am running ahead who says that our world will exist at all, a million years hence? Certainly, by the way we are going at the moment I think the odds can't be very good, and if any clockwork is running this, I urge it to hang on — you've got a very good chance of running the show a million years hence, and quite possibly much sooner. For —

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Not in camera - on camera

Julian Critchley calls for openness in constituencies

The corps of Tory parliamentary candidates-to-be, hand-picked by Central Office, is now the Forlorn Hopes of politics. Once favoured letter-writers, they now await the call with trepidation.

The Forlorn Hopes, you will remember, were volunteers in the Civil War given the task of being the first to breach the Royalist lines. Those who survived the first onslaught, and there were not many, might gain great glory. Today, the ambitious Tory bound for Christchurch in the hope of being chosen to be the party's standard-bearer in a July by-election, has a slim chance of spoils. He may well go to the way of Newbury's Julian Davidson.

Meanwhile, the Aldershot Tories are choosing their successor to contest the seat at the general election. The party's management committee will first reduce the list of names from 50 to about 10 (the original list numbered 253); then next Wednesday comes the semi-final, from which three names will emerge, and the final choice will be made next Friday. My majority at the election was more than 19,000, and the seat has only returned Conservative MPs. When it comes to pickings few are riper than "the home of the British Army".

The choice of candidate for both seats will be made, in the first instance, by about 20 people and in the second by about 50. The final, for Aldershot at least, will be fought out away from the press before 150 or so, in a general meeting open to all paid-up members of the association.

It is a process in which the self-selected choose in secret from a list of people they have met, supplied by Central Office. It is an odd way to run a railroad. Should not the final stage, the contest between three candidates, flanked by their spouses, be thrown open to a wider scrutiny? There was a time in the 1960s when it seemed that the "open primary" was about to be adopted as common practice by the party. Sadly, it did not take root, the excuse being that the exposure was "unfair to the candidates".

Our most famous open primary was held at Reigate in 1968. The shortlist was decided in private and from the last six (Geoffrey Howe, Chris Chataway, Peter Thomas, Anthony Meyer, David Walder and me), Howe and Chataway were picked to meet in the final which was to be filmed for *Times Television's This Week*. I reported it for *The Sunday Times*.

The contest, which was an intriguing one, was to be decided by the votes of the paid-up members, and the champions were evenly matched. Howe had been in the House for two years and on the front bench, losing his seat in 1966. Chataway had been a minister in the Macmillan government. They were the most promising of the younger Tories. Howe right-wing, at least on economic matters, Chataway excessively moderate. They were given 20 minutes each, followed by questions, and their wives five. Six hundred people, most of them women, made up the audience. Millions watched on television.

Howe won, but only on points. He was thoughtful and his appeal to "people who care about our country and want to do something about it" was well judged. Chataway was the more sophisticated but visibly nervous. Anna Chataway was perhaps a shade too West End for the mid-Surrey middle class, but Elspeth Howe got it right. "What politicians need is a certain sort of love," she declared, and there was not a dry eye in the house.

We shall be denied such pleasures at Aldershot. The winner will emerge to be introduced to a lone reporter from the local press. We shall have to take him on trust.

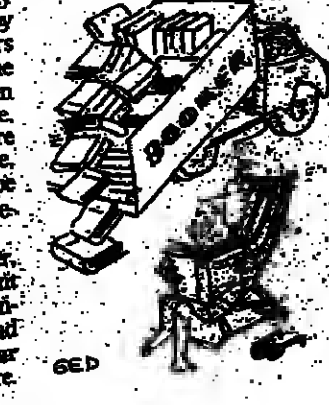
The author has been the Conservative MP for Aldershot since 1970.

Speed-reading

LORD GOWRIE and his team of Booker Prize judges have not had the best of weeks. Under pressure from publishers, Booker has changed the rules of the prize so that each publisher can now enter more books than ever before. Not surprisingly, the already over-worked judges are not happy.

The decision was made this week by the prize's management committee. The committee members felt the old rules, under which each publisher could enter only three books, meant fewer new authors were submitted. Now they have decreed that works by previously shortlisted authors will not be included in the three. For a major fiction publisher like Jonathan Cape, which has won the prize more times than any other house, the news is "fantastic". Cape publishes ten authors previously shortlisted.

For the judges, however, who have already been sent some 25 books, it is deeply unwelcome. Each year they read about 100 books: this year there could be up to 15 more.



The *Illustrated Domesday Book* is a splendidly illustrated book, but it is not a speed-reading book. So they must have been delighted when Diana Maddock, their candidate at Christchurch, who lives in Southampton, explained that she has owned a beach ball in Mansford for years. *Illustrated Domesday Book* is a splendidly illustrated book, but it is not a speed-reading book. So they must have been delighted when Diana Maddock, their candidate at Christchurch, who lives in Southampton, explained that she has owned a beach ball in Mansford for years.

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DIARY

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Feminism meets its match

Maya Angelou, the American poet and author, was in London last Wednesday to toast the women of Virago on the feminist publishers' 20th birthday. "Women are phenomenal," she said, adding that "men must be too, because nature abhors imbalance." She, however, will stick with celebrating her own sex in her work. "The men can write their own poems," she announced to cheers.

However, Angelou (left) had courted controversy by arriving with a book under

her arm. Not only was it not a Virago, it was by a man. Angelou's chosen reading was *Lead*, a first novel by actor-turned-writer Ray Shell (right), publication of which in the autumn is expected to cause a considerable stir. "It's the most wonderful work," putted Angelou. "Ray is a beautiful writer." As for Shell, he's already tiring of denying that his narrator, a crack addict, is autobiographical. "No way. I was on tour in the States a year or so ago with a Lloyd Webber show. It's based on what I saw."

سكنا لا اعمل



GOOD FOR BRITAIN

The rest of Europe should follow Britain's economic lead

If anyone still harboured doubts about Britain's departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism, yesterday's economic news should have laid them to rest. The fashionable defeatists who said that Britain would not be able to steer a sensible course without the Bundesbank's guidance have been confounded. "Made in Britain" could yet become a hallmark of quality in the making of economic policy.

While Europe sinks deeper into recession, Britain is now clearly on the road to economic recovery. While politicians in Europe tell people there is no alternative to mass unemployment as a permanent fact of life, John Major is able to say with conviction, as he did yesterday in Parliament, that the jobless level in Britain is still unacceptably high and will be reduced. While European leaders openly question the principle of free trade and call for market-rigging to keep out efficient Japanese producers, British industry now faces international competition with greater confidence than it has for decades. Contrasts like these suggest important lessons not only for Britain, but for the whole of Europe.

Britain has learned that, despite Norman Lamont's protestations, it is possible to "kick-start" an economy. The conditions for new jobs and economic growth can be created by cutting interest rates and maintaining a competitive pound. A low exchange rate can at times be inflationary and interest rates can be cut too far. But the threat of inflation depends on the state of the business cycle. When the economy is in recession and unemployment remains near three million, the government should continue to err on the side of lower interest rates and faster growth. It is not in recessions, but in late-cycle booms, such as the one from 1989 onwards, that governments make their worst inflationary mistakes.

The same lesson applies to the whole of

Europe. European governments should realise that there is nothing inevitable about permanent mass unemployment. Unemployment is not caused by free trade and international competition. It is aggravated by rigid labour practices and other structural problems; but these are not the main causes of Europe's present jobs crisis either. The main reasons for rapidly rising unemployment in Europe today are macro-economic: excessively high interest rates, uncompetitive exchange rates and inadequate economic growth.

Europe should also acknowledge that national responsibility for monetary policies and exchange rates is perfectly compatible with the creation of a free-trading community and single market. In fact, independent national monetary policies, designed to maintain full employment, may be necessary for the single market to work.

Britain's European partners have complained bitterly about the threat to the single market posed by currency fluctuations and "competitive devaluations". But a far greater threat to free trade is the uncompetitiveness of many European industries. This is caused not only by poor management methods, but also by an obsession with keeping artificially high exchange rates, regardless of their impact on industrial costs.

If France, Germany and other European countries chose to respond to the competitive pound and the low interest rates in Britain by cutting their own interest rates and letting their currencies float downwards, the outcome would not be a slump and a trade war, but an economic recovery and a resurgence of trade across the whole of Europe. When John Major and Kenneth Clarke go to the European summit in Copenhagen this weekend, they need not apologise for their economic successes. Instead they should urge the rest of Europe to follow Britain's lead.

HONOURS BE BLOWN

The Conservative Party should look to its members for funds

The Conservative party has been embarrassed by Asil Nadir's hefty contributions to its coffers — and subsequently his threats, made to *The Times* yesterday, to "destroy" them. Norman Fowler, the party chairman, did not present a scintillating defence of Conservative Central Office's fund-raising activities before the House of Commons Committee on Wednesday. Moralists, who believe money to be a dirty word, are having a field day. Yet the Conservative party has a far better defence than its representative expressed.

The moralists have invented a new sin for our times. They have unilaterally decided that it is now the responsibility of a political party to find out how ethical, honest, decent, truthful and "British" are the people who contribute to its funds. Newspapers, which accepted advertising from the Communist dictator of North Korea, Mr Kim Il Sung, for instance, will not doubt choose to hand back the cash. Will charities vet their donors before moral tribunals? It is surely no coincidence that the Labour party left its attack on the Tories in this affair to junior subordinates for fear of raising the shades of old "contributors" like Sir Eric Miller and Robert Maxwell.

We can also imagine how those politically correct commentators who like to hint slyly that the Conservative party is a racist organisation would react in other circumstances. If Polly Peck had not gone bust they might be heaping imprecations on the Conservatives for failing to grant honours outside a magic Anglo-Saxon circle.

It is, of course, perfectly proper that public companies should be forced to declare their political donations to shareholders whose profits are thereby diminished. But to force

individuals to declare political donations is only one step away from demanding that political allegiances in a general election be publicly revealed.

Although the critics' arguments may be short on logic, Conservative Central Office is much to blame for the way this scandal has got out of hand. Why should a party with such a sizeable and affluent membership be so unpopular with its constituents that it needs money from underhanded sources? Why have companies which used to support the Conservatives, believing they would provide a good climate for business, abandoned the party in droves?

British politics comes very cheap. The cost of elections is low, there is no competition for advertising on television, party political broadcasts are statutory and funds for constituency campaigning are limited by law. Britain, in contrast to its European partners, has an enviable reputation for political probity. It would be in the long term interest of the Conservative party to show that it is competing fairly in the political market. It would be more sensible for the Tories not to rely on foreigners and a few individuals for contributions and work harder to build up its constituency.

Political parties, especially ones like the Tories that have been in office for over a decade, need to demonstrate their probity. All over Europe long established parties of the right and centre-left are failing to meet this challenge. They have brought democracy into disrepute by peddling influence to raise funds. In this climate the Tories must be above suspicion. Otherwise there is an unwelcome alternative — state funding for political parties. Mr Fowler should clean out his stable.

ABORIGINAL SIN

It is too late to prosecute Captain Cook for war crimes

As a last straw after the recession, politics and the Test match, the United Kingdom now faces prosecution for trespass and crimes against humanity. At a conference in Adelaide yesterday, the Aboriginal people of Australia threatened to bring legal action against the British government for these offences, which they allege were committed against their ancestors by Captain Cook and the white settlers who came after him. Their claim arises from last year's high court ruling which overturned the original British claim that Australia was an uninhabited continent when Captain Cook landed at the lush anchorage of Botany Bay in 1770.

The gentle Aborigines, with their old culture of the Dreaming and Song-lines, were indeed savagely treated by the white invaders, and almost wiped out, as though they were subhuman animals. Even today they can still be treated with racial contempt, and Australians have been slower to recognise the dignity and humanity of their Aboriginal inhabitants than New Zealanders and Americans. But time must impose a statute of limitations on historical crimes, even though there is not such cut-off point for the Nuremberg offence of war crime.

Mercifully, there is no prosecuting angel to conduct a continuous post-mortem on the law reports of history to put right the sins of the past. History is simply a hard kernel of contemporary prejudice surrounded by a soft pulp of disputable facts. For good or ill (mostly good) Columbus discovered the New

World, but there is no future in blaming him for his crime, or mistake, now.

Some people, such as Armenians, Kurds, and other Americans, may feel that they have been dealt a raw deal by the past. But all nations can make such claims. Because they have a long written history, the Aboriginal Britons, if they can be identified in some Celtic enclave, can claim an impressive list of war crimes and genocide committed against them by waves of Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, and trespass by immigrants from all over the world, the latest being the English with holiday cottages. The original crime that started history off on its bloody but glorious path was either the expulsion of Eden's original parents from the Garden of Eden, or some other less well-recorded prehistoric tribal migration.

Captain Cook himself recognised that his new-found Arcadia was inhabited. He wrote in his journal that the natives might appear to be the most wretched people upon Earth, but in reality they were far happier than Europeans, being wholly unacquainted not only with the superfluous but the necessary. And nine years later, the great explorer paid for any crimes he had committed by his death in Hawaii at the hands of the natives. There comes a stage when the past has to be left to bury the past. All ephemeral mortals can do in their brief span is to try to avoid repeating the mistakes and crimes of history, while committing their own.

No 'fast-track' for Lloyd's litigation

From the Honorable Mr Justice Saville

Sir, You reported on June 2 that five extra High Court judges had been called in to deal with "an avalanche of litigation" following the heavy losses in the Lloyd's insurance market. On June 14 you repeated this in a leading article. The statement is incorrect.

I have been in charge of the Commercial Court and as such I am responsible for dealing with High Court commercial litigation, including that concerning Lloyd's. Last year I experienced great anxiety that shortage of judges was adversely affecting the worldwide high reputation of the Commercial Court.

However, the Lord Chancellor announced that he would seek an increase in the number of High Court judges (report, March 6), which in my view will enhance the Commercial Court to function properly.

These new appointments are not being made to deal with the Lloyd's cases but with the general shortage of judges in the High Court as a whole. There is said to be no question of appointing or calling in additional judges for the Lloyd's cases. To do so would be unfair to other litigants who have an equal right to the court's time.

As part of the service offered by the Commercial Court to those with commercial disputes, I have arranged a meeting at which I can discuss informally with the legal representatives of the parties concerned how best we can deal with the Lloyd's cases, so as to resolve them with the minimum of delay and cost, without "fast-tracking" them to the disadvantage of other users of the court.

The Commercial Court is continually trying to improve its service to its users and spends considerable time discussing with them how best this can be achieved. I am confident that, now that the government has addressed the problem that so concerned me last year, the Commercial Court can continue to provide the best commercial disputes resolution service in the world.

Yours faithfully,
MARK SAVILLE
Royal Courts of Justice,
Strand, WC2
June 16

Name's losses

From the Chairman of the Lime Street Action Group

Sir, It must be accepted that the letter from the Reverend K. I. Hobbs (June 7), questioning the term "meagre" as appropriate to the Lloyd's settlement figure, was written without malice. It is, however, obvious that it was also written without any understanding of the circumstances surrounding distressed names at Lloyd's.

The £14,000 figure mentioned by Mr Hobbs is the joint income which the members' hardship committee will permit a married couple to retain — a spouse's income is taken into account, whether or not he/she wished to participate in underwriting. Professional advice is that the terms currently proposed by the committee, in spite of recent improvements, can be more onerous than bankruptcy.

It is true that names did not have to join Lloyd's (is any investment compulsory), but they were encouraged to do so by an active recruitment drive. They knew insurance to be a risky business, but they had no inkling of the LMD reinsurance spiral, and still less did they wish to be involved in that type of business.

They are also now appalled to learn that, while Lloyd's has avoided regulation under the Financial Services Act, through its own particular self-regulating status, it claims to have no duty of care to its members in respect of that self-regulation.

Names who have faced losses for four years, and have dutifully paid up cash calls until their entire life's savings have been consumed, deserve more sympathy than Mr Hobbs appears willing to allow.

Yours faithfully,
MARIE-LOUISE BURROWS,
Chairman, Lime Street Action Group,
4 Courtyard House,
27a Farm Street, W1

Jobs for the boys?

From Lord Denham

Sir, In his letter (June 16) about Monday's complete list of government, Mr R. T. M. Ahern asks whether the fact that the 110 names listed no fewer than 24 come from the Lords is "a reflection of how the prime minister thinks a classless society is structured". In fact, there is one fewer: I think he must have counted Lord James Douglas-Hamilton in the wrong House. Nine of the 23 — the Lord Chancellor, the Leader of the Lords and the seven whips — can only be selected from the Upper House.

This leaves 14 departmental ministers in the Lords (against 88 in the Commons) to do the work of 18 departments, which, as all government business has to be carried through both Houses alike, is a modest enough ratio.

On the other hand, since each peer

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9QN. Telephone 071-782 5000

A social strategy to protect the poor

From Mrs Hermione Parker

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("This Lilley-livered letter", June 12) asks for a national debate on social reform. Several post-Beveridge strategies exist, but only one would protect those on low income without locking them into welfare dependency. Called "citizen's income", it is a direct descendant of Sir Edward Heath's tax-credit proposals of 1972. It waits in the wings for any government with the guts and open-mindedness to think fairly.

The lack of an invalidity benefit (report, June 11) highlights design weaknesses in the Beveridge approach to social security. So long as government pays people to be sick, or unemployed, or poor — and clobbers them as soon as they try to get back into work — social security expenditure is bound to escalate. When Beveridge wrote his plan he assumed full employment, but in today's labour market there are few opportunities for people with disabilities or low skills.

Beveridge took for granted that the lower-paid would be exempt from tax (except for 25p a week national insurance contribution). Today the bottom fifth of the population pay a higher percentage of their incomes in tax than the top fifth. If tax were levied according to ability to pay, far fewer people would need benefit.

Beveridge also emphasised the importance of voluntary savings, but for small savings to be worthwhile dependence on means-tested benefits must be reduced — otherwise, small savers merely disqualify themselves from benefit, a problem alluded to by the general secretary of the National Conference of Friendly Societies (letter, June 10).

Those flaws explain the growing support for a citizen's income, which would guarantee every legal resident a small tax-free income, either as a cash benefit or a deduction against income tax. Everyone would get this income, whether in paid work or not, and it would be withdrawn from those who did not need it through an integrated income tax. Instead of being locked into inactivity, people with disabilities would be able to use it as a platform on which to build through paid work, each according to his or her abilities.

Will the politicians look at citizens'

income? In theory the Liberal Democrats have already accepted a modified version, but lacked the courage in last year's general election to tell the voters. The Labour party's Commission on Social Justice is interested, but the trade unions say it would subsidise low wages.

Most extraordinary of all is the attitude of the Conservative party, which took office in 1979 pledged to introduce tax credits but dropped the idea in favour of a residual (or means-tested) welfare state.

Certainly, the Lilley-Portillo review will not do. Instead of using recession as an excuse for speeding up the transition towards a residual welfare state, the prime minister should initiate a public review of taxation as well as benefits — maybe a royal commission. At present, ordinary people are getting desperate. Nothing is safe any more — even their pensions — so they can no longer plan their futures.

Yours etc,
HERMIONE PARKER
(Editor, *Citizen's Income Bulletin*),
Citizen's Income Study Centre,
St Phillips Building,
Sheffield Street, WC2
June 14

From Mr Antony Weston

Sir, You report (June 12) Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, as saying of invalidity benefit: "It is not obvious to people why there should be two or three times as many people claiming benefit as there were ten or fifteen years ago, at a time when people's health has been improving and not getting worse."

Invalidity benefit is intended for long-term sickness and it would be expected that many of the 600,000 people claiming it in 1978-9 would still be claiming in 1993-4. Some of these would be among the 1,500,000 people claiming the benefit today, along with about 60,000 net new claimants every year since 1978-9.

It appears quite clear how the numbers of claimants can continue to increase when one remembers that some people may be claiming for more than 40 years.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY WESTON,
6 Clarence Street, Richmond, Surrey.

Tax reforms to close the PSBR gap

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, Kenneth Clarke has still not made up his mind whether to tackle the government's £50 billion PSBR problem through spending cuts or tax increases. Perhaps he should take into account Britain's balance of trade and also realise that trimming money from public spending, so as to keep income tax at its current level, would mean reducing the amounts given to people and projects that create demand, mainly for domestically produced goods, in order to maintain the purchasing power of relatively prosperous individuals, whose propensity to spend on imported goods is much greater.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN COSKER
(Head of economics),
The Knights Templar School,
Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire.
June 16

From Professor A. P. Thirlwall

Sir, In the discussion on the size of the UK's budget deficit and how to reduce it, it would be a great mistake either to raise taxes or to reduce expenditure by themselves, let alone together. This would delay economic recovery and increase the deficit further.

The solution to both recession and the size of the deficit is to have a balanced expansion of both expenditure and taxation. This would be expansionary and reduce the deficit. For maximum effect, and on the grounds of equity, the increased taxation should be on the rich, not on the poor.

Yours sincerely,
A. P. THIRLWALL,
Keynes College, The University,
Canterbury, Kent.
June 15

From Mr William Deller

Sir, A significant aspect of public expenditure, and the associated tax burden, is its contribution to the unemployment problem. About three million healthy able-bodied men and women in Britain would like to work but cannot, to a large extent because the burden of taxation necessitated by the level of public-sector expenditure makes it impossible for them to find work.

The only way to deal with this central political issue, and allow the unemployed to work, is to reduce the tax burden, not find ingenious ways to increase it. This is the real tax revolution that is desperately needed.

Yours faithfully,
W. B. DELLER,
42 Surley Row, Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire.
June 15

From Mr Sydney Shenton

Sir, Sight of the titrime anchored off the Palace of Westminster (photograph, June 17) should be a reminder of the example of the city states of Greece. When these founders of our democracy and so many of our classical values were in trouble they called upon the rich.

No one advocates tax and spend, and economies and greater efficiency in the distribution of welfare benefits are essential; but an increase in the level of tax upon the very highly paid, which would include the still prevalent boardroom piracy, would be both financially prudent and politically and socially beneficial.

Sincerely,
SYDNEY SHENTON,
95 The Crescent, Davenport,
Stockport, Cheshire.
June 17

Fish prosecution

From the Director General of the RSPCA

Sir, Your editorial comment (June 11) on the RSPCA's prosecution of Mr David Sharod, an electrician who, in our view, deserted his tropical fish, describes the society's prosecution as "venomous litigation".

Forgoing the technical error in the expression, this allegation is unfounded. The court studied the full facts and the background of the case but did not criticise the RSPCA for bringing the prosecution, nor did it award costs against the society.

The society prosecuted Mr Sharod on the basis of strong veterinary evidence that the fish were likely to suffer. In these circumstances the society decided that it was unacceptable to leave the fish in the conditions in which they were found, and felt that its only choice was to commence a prosecution.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAVIES,
Director General,
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,
Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex.

Inroads into the West Country

From the Director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England

Sir, Oxford is not the only area affected by bypass plans (Lord Bullock's letter, June 10). South-west England is being assailed by roads: the A36 Salisbury bypass, the A46-A36 Bournemouth and Bradford-on-Avon bypasses, the A303 at Stone-henge, and the A38 second Tamar crossing are just some examples.

All these are part of much bigger schemes, forming strategic routes to the south-west, yet none of the environment assessments by the Department of Transport have addressed the wider impact of such routes on development patterns and thereby on the environment.

While this road-building is being proposed, the future of the region's railway network is uncertain. Will there be an effective railfreight and passenger system in the future or will we become ever more dependent on heavy lorries and cars (and thus on improved roads) to move our goods and people around?

Two years ago the government agreed, in response to its own expert advisory committee, to experiment with the concept of strategic environmental assessments for major road proposals. None have been carried out. The situation is now urgent in the south-west. Will John MacGregor recognise the real public anxiety that exists and grasp this nettle?

Yours faithfully,
FIONA REYNOLDS,
Director, Council for the Protection of Rural England,
25 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,
June 15

Bypass benefits Oxford

From Councillor Mrs Janet Todd

Sir, Lord Bullock says the north Oxford bypass is "ostensibly designed to relieve traffic congestion", thus giving a wrong impression.

This bypass has been demanded by people in the area for nearly 30 years. It has been supported for most of that time by both the county and city councils. It first appeared in the ministry programme in 1978.

The A40 trunk road to Fishguard runs through north Oxford. It has a serious accident rate, particularly at the Banbury Road roundabout. It holds up traffic coming into and leaving Oxford and creates a tail of traffic more than a mile long at peak periods on the Banbury and Woodstock roads.

When at last the route was published this year most residents were overjoyed. At the recent local elections I retained my seat on the county council, winning the ward which is bisected by the road with a comfortable majority. I made my support of the road abundantly clear.

We are now looking to a public enquiry to vindicate us. The bypass will remove 75 per cent of the traffic running through the ward. It will not run "for much of the way on a nine-metres-high embankment" only the portion which crosses the railway and the Kidlington road will be so raised. The rest of the road, where it might have been visually intrusive to houses, will be one to four metres high.

The Liberals have been to the fore in advocating the closest links with the Common Market. These links mean improved roads from the ports. The towns on the way must be bypassed, and the sooner the better.

Yours faithfully,
JANET TODD,
Foxton Lodge, Foxton Close, Oxford.

Righting the balance

From Mr S. C. Dexter

Sir, I think Peter Miller ("Oh, for a place in the sun", June 9) has spent too much time in our "great" capital and not enough time in some of our other cities — specifically Birmingham, which he briefly links with London in his article about Britain's café society. Birmingham still has some way to go before it catches up with its continental "twins", namely Frankfurt, Lyon and Milan, but is still streets ahead of London.

Yours faithfully,
S. C. DEXTER,
2 Wenlock, Glascoat,
Tamworth, Staffordshire.
June 9

Perils of pop

From Mr Alan Symons

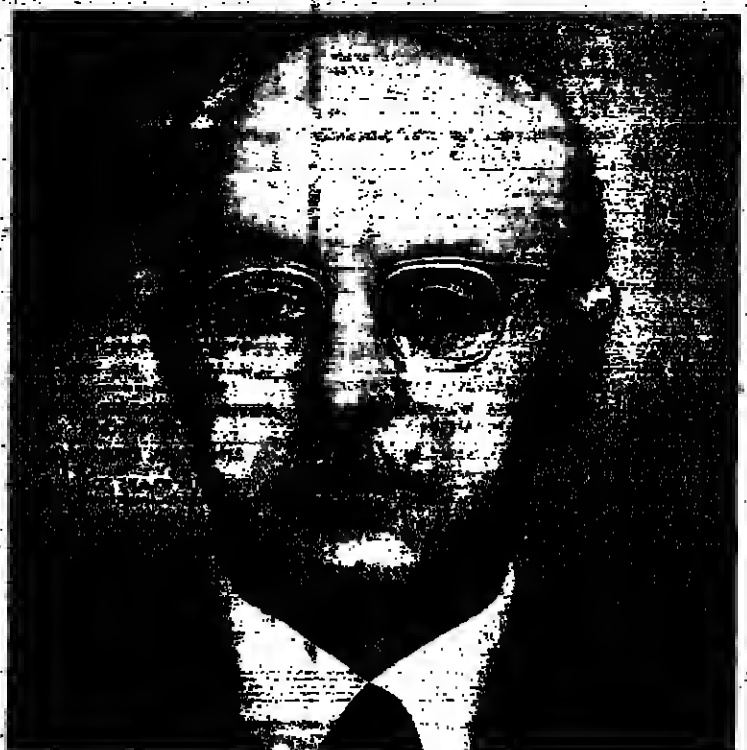
Sir, Elton John, who stormed out of Israel after claiming that his safety was threatened by over-zealous media attention (report, June 16), might care to reflect that during Mrs Golda Meir's premiership the Beatles were due to visit Israel for a sell-out concert. They were refused permission as Israel was concerned about their safety.

Mrs Meir's comment, as reported at the time, was: "The Beatles? Beatles we can do without".

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SYMONS,
30 Chichester Close, Oak Avenue,
Hampton, Middlesex.
June 17

OBITUARIES

ERIC TRIST



Eric Lansdowne Trist, social scientist and a founding member of the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, died at Carmel, California, on June 4 aged 83. He was born in Dover on September 11, 1909.

ERIC TRIST's major undertaking in the last years of his life was compiling a substantial three-volume collection, entitled *The Social Engagement of Social Science: A Tavistock Anthology*. That title captures the essence of the lifelong project, to which he brought his breadth of outlook and outstanding intellectual powers: the advancement of understanding in the social sciences through engaging with practical problems in organisations and wider social systems.

He had a brilliant academic career. Benefiting perhaps from being the belated and only son of a Scottish governess and a Cornish sea-captain, he was — unusually for those days — a grammar school boy who won a scholarship to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he went on to get a double first in English Literature. He then switched to psychology and achieved another first with distinction. Next came a Commonwealth Fund fellowship, which took him to the United States in 1933 for two years.

Later Trist would describe his shock at the hunger and violence he encountered travelling through America during the Depression. For the first time he became politically active. The effects of the Depression continued to preoccupy him on his return: based at St Andrews (where he became a lecturer in psychology and for a time the acting head of department) he plunged into a study of long-term unemployment in Dundee, working as part of probably the first large inter-disciplinary re-

search team.

Then came the war. He joined the Emergency Medical Services as a senior clinical psychologist, based at Mill Hill Hospital which received some of the early psychiatric casualties from Dunkirk. He was also a research fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry — the Maudsley — under Sir Aubrey Lewis. After two years, Trist was ready to move on. He was intrigued by work that a group from the Tavistock Clinic was doing in the Army, and infuriated Sir Aubrey by abandoning the Maudsley to join them.

In the Army he immediately became involved with the "Tavistock Group" in establishing the "War Office Selection Boards. These not only provided a sophisticated and effective method of officer selection but also, more importantly, by opening up the catchment area of potential officers far more widely, made it possible to recruit the tens of thousands needed.

In 1943, by then a lieutenant-colonel, he moved to another innovative assignment. This was the establishment of Civil Resettlement Units (CRUs), which were designed to help returning prisoners-of-war with the often difficult problems of reconnecting to the civilian world. Its immense success was recognised by

an OBE.

That was the spring-board for all of Trist's future work. Along with Tommy Wilson, Jock Sutherland, Wilfred Bion and other Army colleagues, now back at the Tavistock Clinic, he was enthusiastic about applying this experience in the phase of postwar reconstruction, and in 1946 they launched the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations as an independent entity to carry it forward.

The work for which Trist is best known spanned two years of research on alternatives to bureaucratic forms of organisation in the coal industry. He introduced the concept of the "social-technical system" and identified the importance of the autonomous work-group — a self-regulating unit — and its implications for the wider organisation. This concept gained only limited currency in the UK, but spread widely in the United States. In Europe it became an important element in industrial democracy, and it was the basis of the international "quality of work-life" movement.

The coal research was published as *Organisational Choice* (1963), but other books and monographs in this period illustrate the range of his work: *Diagnostic Performance Tests* (1958); *Explorations in Group Relations* (1959); *Social Research and a National Policy for Science* (1964). Most were co-authored — something, as he said, that "befits an enterprise characterised by a group orientation". A later book, *Towards a Social Ecology* (1973), resulted from his close collaboration with Fred Emery at the Institute in studying large-scale social systems and the environmental contexts of organisations. During this time he also acquired a Cambridge doctorate.

Another achievement of Trist's Tavistock period was the founding in

1947 of the journal *Human Relations*, published initially in collaboration with Kurt Lewin and his institution, the Research Center for Group Dynamics at Ann Arbor, Michigan. He edited it for many years and remained honorary editorial fellow until he died.

In 1966, he continued his career in North America and was Professor of Organisational Behaviour and Social Ecology successively at UCLA where, with Lou Davis, he developed the first graduate programmes in socio-technical systems (1966-69); at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was also chairman of the Management and Behavioral Science Center (1969-1978); and in the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at York University, Toronto (1978-83).

Trist will live on through his writings and the many colleagues and students for whom he was a significant mentor. He had a fine sense of humour and was always a stimulus — at times too much so, because for most of his life he was subject to a reverse sleep cycle (eventually traced to childhood meningitis), which meant that he was lively all night, both socially and intellectually. By day he was sometimes more somnolent, although one learnt that eyes closed during a meeting did not necessarily imply inattention. Lateness could be a problem. An army colleague captured it in a clerical: "Eric Trist/Missed The train/Again". But, deservedly, he was always forgiven.

With his characteristic energy and persistence, despite serious ill-health, he continued his writing and editing until the last weeks of his life. His work on the *Tavistock Anthology* will now be completed by his wife, Beulah, a tower of strength both personally and professionally. He is also survived.

JANET GREEN

Janet Green, playwright and screenplay writer, died in Beaconsfield on May 30 aged 84. She was born at Hitchin, Hertfordshire, on July 4, 1908.

JANET GREEN was one of those fortunate, if frustrated, writers for the theatre whose fame (and prosperity) was based on a single play. In 1952 she wrote a remarkably well-crafted thriller, *Murder Mistaken*, which was to be constantly revived and even at the time of her death was still earning her royalties from amateur dramatic companies. In Britain it was turned into a film under the title, *Cast a Dark Shadow* (1955), featuring two of the biggest stars of the time, Margaret Lockwood and Dirk Bogarde.

Although the play enjoyed a success she was never quite to repeat. Green was a thoroughly professional writer. She entered the film world in 1947, writing the screenplay for her own story, *The Clouded Yellow*, ultimately produced by Sydney and Betty Box in 1950. Another murder story, it again had a star-studded cast — Trevor Howard, Jean Simmons, Sonia Dresdel and Kenneth More all appeared in it. While not as ingenious in plot as her later play, *Murder Mistaken*, it was judged by critics of the time — with its final chase across the Lake District — to have more than a touch of Hitchcock about it.

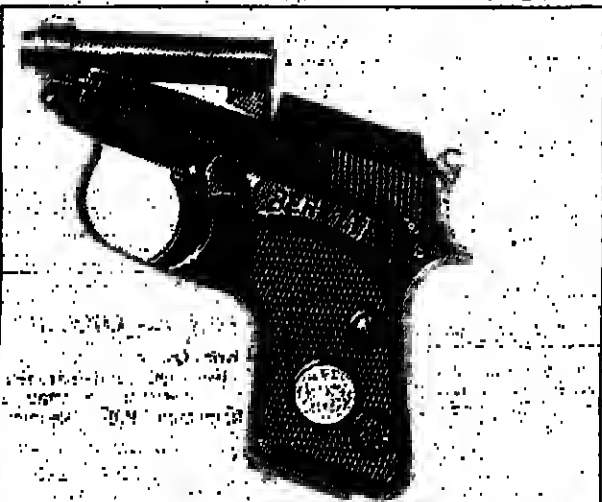
Green spent some years working in Hollywood, although none of the films she

worked on there was a major box-office success. *Midnight Lace* (1960), a rewrite of *Gaslight* and based on her play *Matilda Shouted Fire*, perhaps came nearest to it, though by the time it was released Green's name was no longer among the credits. She had better luck with the British cinema, particularly with *Sapphire* (1959), a police thriller with a race angle rather ahead of its time, which won a British Academy award as well as gaining for its script-writer the Prix Femina du Cinema from the French critics and an "Edgar" from the Mystery Writers of America.

Green's own heart, however, was in the theatre. She had started life as an actress, appearing in small parts in some of the famous Aldwych farces of the 1930s and later in various repertory companies. Her first play, *Lighten Our Darkness*, was produced in 1946 and she was to write at least half-a-dozen more before her career was over. For ten years she lived in Paris, moving afterwards to Lausanne, before returning to England in the 1970s. She liked to describe herself as an actress turned writer and an ardent Francophile who is often homesick for London.

Green was twice married. Her second husband, John McCormick, with whom she wrote two of her best screenplays — *Victim* (1961), a study of homosexual blackmail, and *Life for Ruth* (1962), the tale of a little girl denied a blood transfusion on religious grounds — died in 1989.

PIERGIUSEPPE BERETTA



A Beretta 25 — the gun used by James Bond in Ian Fleming's first five novels

Piergiuseppe Beretta, chairman of the famed Beretta firearms manufacturing company, died in Gardone Valrompia, in the province of Brescia, Lombardy, on June 10, aged 86. He was born on June 16, 1906.

TO READERS of Ian Fleming's novelistic oeuvre, the products of the Beretta family firm are chiefly associated with the fictional secret agent James Bond. Licensed to kill as he was, 007 was known to prefer the Beretta above all other automatic pistols for bumping off those who meant him and his country no good — until, that is, he was commanded to turn it in for a German-manufactured "Walther PPK 'SM', his boss". To be fair to the Beretta, Mr's objection was that 007 was

using a .25 calibre version of the weapon, which was dismissed by Major Boothroyd ("Q", the arms expert of the Bond films) as a "ladies' gun". In the novel *Dr No*, its use had nearly cost Bond his life in the preceding novel, *From Russia*

With Love, when it snagged in his jacket as 007 was about to draw it. M was adamant: out went the Beretta for a .32 calibre Walther of far greater stopping power.

Though no sentimentalist, Bond secretly yearned for his Beretta. And to judge from the sales record of the make, that, too, has been the verdict of the world's armed forces and law enforcement agencies. Italy, indeed, claims to be the home of the pistol and Fabbrica d'Armi Beretta is one of the world's oldest arms manufacturers.

The firm is still run by descendants of the family which established it in 1526 in the small town of Gardone Valrompia in the range of tumbling hills which lie between Lakes Garda and Iseo. It was an ancestor of Piergiuseppe Beretta who consolidated and expanded the

business in the 19th Century, laying the foundations for the production of the highly successful model 1915 pistol for the Italian army in the first world war. Piergiuseppe himself was at the helm of the company during a further considerable growth in the postwar period.

Born at Gardone Valrompia, which is the cradle of Italian small arms manufacture, Piergiuseppe Beretta took a degree in industrial chemistry at Bologna University in 1932 and subsequently gained his doctorate.

As chairman of the board of Fabbrica d'Armi Beretta from 1957, he oversaw the evolution of a new range of handguns, expanded production overseas with factories being established in Brazil and the United States. The Model 1915 SL, first of the postwar generation of Beretta pistols, was replaced successively by models 81 and 84 under his chairmanship.

But the crowning glory of the Beretta sidearms arsenal (the company also manufac-

tures rifles and shotguns) is the Beretta 92F, first announced in 1977. It was adopted by the US Army to replace the ageing Colt .45 automatic, after convincingly winning the American military trials against all comers. In 1987 it was selected by the Gendarmerie Nationale of France as its regulation pistol and has since been chosen by a number of military and police arms. With a high magazine capacity (15 rounds), and an ability to be modified to suit service specifications laid down by various countries, the Beretta 92F is one of the world's principal service sidearms.

A typically astute Lombard businessman, Beretta was rooted in the life of his province. Like most of his countrymen, Beretta was passionately fond of opera and also liked to relax on the golf course.

He is survived by his second wife, Anna. His first wife, Maria Luisa, predeceased him. There were no children of either marriage.

MICHAEL HUGHES

Michael Hughes, historian, died while on a lecture tour in East Germany on May 23 aged 51. He was born in Wirral, Cheshire, on March 3, 1942.

AS A lecturer in history at the University College of Wales in Aberystwyth from 1968 to 1992 Michael Hughes concentrated on the history of Germany from the Middle Ages to the present. This breadth of interest was unusual and had made him exceptional among British historians of Germany. It sprang largely from his years of study, under the supervision of Professor Francis L. Carsten, at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in London between 1965 and 1969.

Hughes's broad approach to German history was mirrored in his writing, always solidly based on extensive research in Britain as well as in Germany. In his *Nationalism and Society, Germany 1815-1986* (1988) he presents and interprets modern German history by focusing on the theme of nationalism. The book is a differentiating and subtle analysis. It shows all the author's qualities as a fair, understanding and critical scholar. The same may be said of his *Law and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Germany* (1989) and his recent *Early Modern Germany 1477-1806* (1992). Taken together, these three studies cover more than 400 years of German history, which in this day and age is a remarkable achievement for any scholar.

Michael Hughes wrote his surveys of modern German history not only for students, but with a wider readership in mind. In this, he was very successful and respected in both Britain and Germany. Moreover, German historians in particular valued his long-standing interest in the history of East Prussia, an old Prussian province in what is now Lower Saxony. After a number of earlier articles Hughes had just started a major study on the political mobilisation of small farmers in this area. He had planned it as a case-study to illustrate the fateful decay of democracy in Weimar Germany and the rise there



of National Socialism. Hughes was educated at Wirral Grammar School and Queen Mary College, London where he took a first class degree in history. He taught for a year at Ellesmere Port Grammar School, and then went on to the School of Slavonic and East European Studies in London, researching 18th-century German history, completing his PhD in 1969. From 1969 he was a member of the history department at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, becoming Senior Lecturer in 1990.

In 1992 Hughes moved to Llanlleon University College in Southampton. Easier access to research facilities in London and to the Continent had given him a fresh impetus and he became a frequent visitor to the German Historical Institute in Bloomsbury Square. By that time, he had established himself as one of the most distinguished brokers between the cultures and scholarly traditions of Britain and Germany. The rigorous integrity which he applied in his historical research was manifest, too, in his private and public life. He was fascinated by the political process and devoted much of his energies to campaigns on behalf of those who could not fight for themselves. He was a county councillor between 1973 and 1977. His researches into German history engendered a deep-seated unease with any form of nationalism.

He is survived by his wife Yvonne and by their son.

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CHIEF SAMUEL ASABIA

Chief Samuel Asabia, chairman of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, has died in Lagos, aged 61. He was born on December 1, 1931.

Chief Samuel Asabia was one of Nigeria's most outstanding economists. An African chief who eschewed politics for fiscal matters he rose from his first post of administrative officer in 1954 to become Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, 1970-75, vice chairman and chief executive of the Standard Bank of Nigeria in 1975 and then president of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, 1975-81. He served as chairman from 1975 until his death.

Born in Idomi in the Owo division of Ondo State, Chief Samuel Oyeleke Asabia was educated locally and at Exeter University where he gained a diploma in public administration. His abilities were soon recognised. His first key appointment was as senior assistant secretary in the cabinet office of the Western Region (1961). Nearly a dozen significant civil service appointments followed.

Asabia held a number of academic posts. He was on the governing board of the Institute of Public Administration at the University of Ife (1963-66) and chairman of the National Committee for the Teacher Service in 1966. He was elected vice-president of the Nigerian Economics Society in 1983 and in the same year was made an honorary fellow of the Institute of Bankers.

He served on numerous commissions and committees and when off duty enjoyed playing squash, reading biographies, relaxing to classical music and walking.

Asabia married Patricia Lyon, whom he met when she was a fellow student at Exeter. They had two daughters.

DEPARTURE OF THE GREAT EASTERN

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT) SOUTHAMPTON WATERS, JUNE 16

The Great Eastern, in the course of another hour or so, will have commenced her first real voyage, which it is sincerely to be trusted will be of such a character for speed and comfort to all on board as will redeem the vessel from that unfortunate reputation for ill luck and mishap which up to the present has so dogged her chequered career. That this same reputation sticks to her even now may be judged from the fact that the passengers who have committed their fortunes to her are few in the extreme, and only amount in all to some 10 per cent. of the numbers that were expected. Of these only two are ladies. Even now, in all the hurry and bustle of departure, when the last passengers are coming off and the last messages being sent on shore, no-one can look at the condition of the ship without being forcibly impressed with the idea that she still leaves a couple of days too soon for the thorough organization and finish that was promised. In all essentials, however, the ship is perfect, and two or three days at sea in calm weather will soon do all the rest, so that, on the whole, her appearance at New York may do her no discredit. Opinions vary very much,

ON THIS DAY

June 18 1860

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's ship was dogged by misfortune: the launching lasted from November 1857 to January 1860; the following year an explosion killed 10 crew, and in January 1860 her captain was drowned in the Solent. She arrived in New York on June 28.

however, as to the time when her appearance at New York will be made, as none of her less than nine days for the run, under the most favourable circumstances, while the majority lean rather strongly to the belief that it will occupy from 12 to 16. The reasons given for anticipating the latter very low rate of speed are that the cause of the forward boilers priming so much during the last trial trip has been found to be the feed pipes having become very foul, and not allowing the passage of sufficient water to keep them well supplied. Since then they have been cleaned as well as

was possible under the circumstances. It is to be hoped that as the engines get into good working trim these difficulties, if they really exist, will disappear, and as each day's steaming will lighten the vessel's draught four inches, there is every probability that with calm weather a good average run of nine or ten days may be made. It will, however, certainly be a very different run from what she could easily have made had her bottom been relieved of the weeds and slime which encumber it. One thing which is likely to tell much against a first voyage is that, with the present state of the weather, fog is likely to prevail across the Atlantic, and this, with the immense quantity of ice which is reported in the track, would, of course, render full steaming almost out of the question. These anticipations, however, are all the most conjectures, the only thing certain being that the vessel is really about to start; and when this is accomplished, in the face of the predictions that she would not leave this year, who knows but after all she may equally disappoint the ill-borders by making as good a passage as the Adriatic? In proper trim, however, the performances of the Great Eastern would be a low standard of comparison with what the Great Eastern can really do if she only gets fair play.

MOTORING

As Britain's cities and towns become more crowded, a parking space can become territory to be defended, Kevin Eason reports

Nightmare on Acacia Avenue

Only the scowls on the faces of neighbours reveal the tension that bubbles under the surface every day. When the tension erupts, ordinary motorists turn to vigilante-style retribution, which erupts into the kind of violence that scars a small community for ever.

Neighbours not only have to live together but too often must park close together. The problem seems hardly worth worrying about but it niggles away until the lives of whole families can become dominated by the simple matter of where to park the car.

The frustration boils over until Mr or Mrs Average Driver becomes a demented neighbourhood version of D-Fens — the Michael Douglas character in *Falling Down*, the box-office topping movie, who vents his anger in violence.

Cars have been torched and neighbours attacked and seriously injured simply because homeowners regard the stretch of pavement outside their properties as theirs.

There are thousands of streets all over Britain with rows of terraced or semi-detached houses with no drive or garage for the family saloon. That is no problem so long as the number of cars does not outnumber the houses or exceed the space available outside them.

Even local planning regulations in some areas, which require

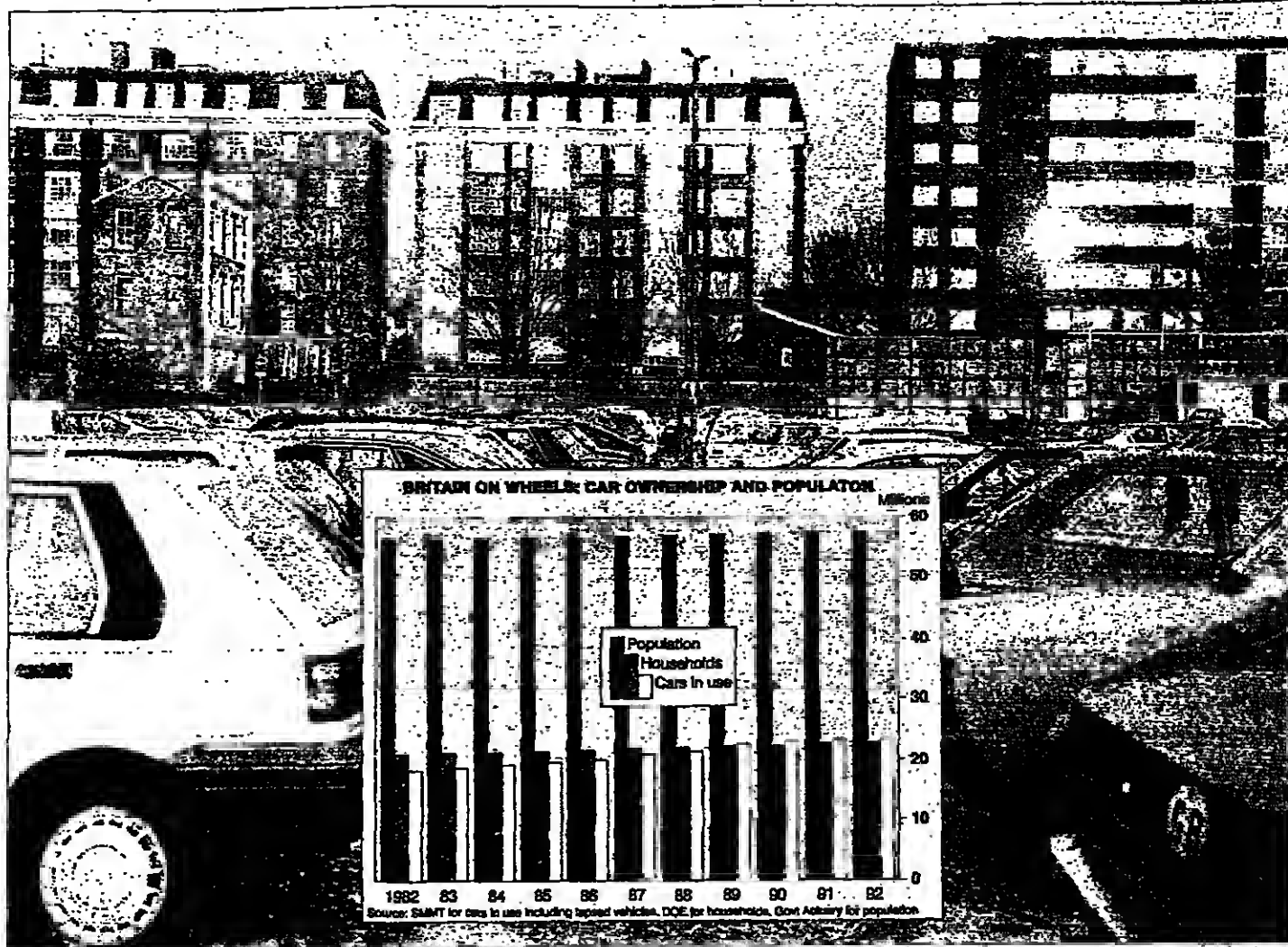
developers to allow two street-parking spaces per household, have been outpaced by the growth in car ownership. This year's Lex Report on Motoring shows that while the population has grown by two per cent, car ownership has shot up by 30 per cent in ten years.

The rise and rise of the two-car family, and the growing affluence of teenagers who live with their parents and own runabouts, has turned what were ordinary streets into one-storey car parks.

When people get home after a day at work, they hate discovering someone else's car sitting outside their front window. And when it happens day after day, the tension rises. Sometimes there is no respite at weekends as some motorists choose to wash or repair their cars outside a neighbour's house.

Hugh Thompson, a freelance journalist, discovered how angry motorists get about their cars. He put a polite note through a neighbour's door asking him not to park so close to the drive of his house in Putney, southwest London. The reply was an abusive note through his letter-box. A few streets away, a parking wrangle ended with a new £3,000 Ford Escort being set alight. Another motorist found his car doused in paint stripper after he parked in the same place, having ignored a note the day before.

Those incidents are typical, says



Parking problems: a crowded apartment complex in London. The graph shows how the number of cars in Britain has increased.

Des Keenoy, home beat officer in Wandsworth. "We get two or three of these incidents every day," PC Keenoy says. "They often involve neighbours, and sometimes violence. As each household gets more and more cars, so the problem increases. On a day-to-day basis, car parking is one of the issues that really vexes people." Nor is it just a

question of finding a space. Carless drivers often leave behind an anonymous mark in the form of a bent radio aerial, a paint scratch or a dent in the wing of the car of their "rival".

PC Keenoy says: "All the parties think they know who and what is involved. We try to explain to each party that they have to go on living

with their neighbours and that in crowded areas there has to be give and take. Unfortunately, there is a general rise in casual violence."

The worst outbreaks are in London. When a man in the East End complained about a neighbour cleaning a car outside his house, he was beaten severely. A court awarded damages of £5,000.

But the problems are spreading to other cities — neighbourhood centres often have to act as referees between angry neighbours fighting for their piece of street.

Anne Smout, from a mediation service in Bristol, Avon, says: "We recently had two cases in which we could persuade neither party to speak face to face even though they

were neighbours. In another case, we got one side to agree not to park — unless forced — on one side of a white line drawn on a fence.

"Another middle-aged couple suspected that neighbours were deliberately forcing them to walk extra yards with their shopping. Despite months of shuttle diplomacy, each side was too hostile to make any concession."

It is a sadness of modern life in British cities that neighbours lash out first rather than try to solve a problem that is bound to plague them daily. Yet police, lawyers and neighbourhood counsellors all understand the hysteria that can be

'People can easily move from the concept of my street to my space'

generated by something as simple as putting a tonne of metal on a 15ft long piece of Tarmac.

As PC Keenoy says, "Many people feel that they have property rights on the public road — but they are wrong. You cannot block someone's driveway but the homeowner's remit runs no further."

The rule does not stop behaviour reaching the point of mania. One householder painted white lines on the street to claim the area for his car only.

Indrith Suleman, a councillor in Fulham, west London, says: "People invest a lot of feeling in their car and its space is their space. In most streets, a sub-culture grows up in which certain people have certain 'rights' over certain spaces. Those who break these customs and practices suffer slashed tyres and worse. It is very easy for people to move from the concept of my street to my space."

Alan Lloyd was unable to explain the magic but he admits he has been hooked for years. The chairman of Lloyd's Chemists chain of 1,500 stores is a Jaguar freak to the extent that he will fly to Le Mans for the 24-hour race this weekend — but break the trip to return to race his own MkII Jaguar at Brands Hatch on Sunday.

Jaguars inspire such devotion, which explains the pilgrimage which took place this week of 18 C-Type cars to the French race track. The company wanted to celebrate 40 years since the C-Type pulled off one of the most celebrated results in the history of Le Mans when the cars took first, second and fourth places.

The 1953 victory was really the start of the Jaguar legend: the company went on to win Le Mans five more times, mostly in 1990, confirming its place in the front rank of sports-car manufacturers alongside Porsche and Ferrari. The approach was so

Legendary Jaguars return to Le Mans

After a pilgrimage this week to the scene of a triple victory 40 years ago, the modern big cats are entering the 24-hour race this weekend

different then. Cars competing at Le Mans recently have been specially designed thoroughbreds, as remote from the average family hatchback as a means of transport as the Space Shuttle.

This year, the aim has been to force cars to return to their roots — entries have to be versions of production models. Jaguar is entering its XJ220C, the race version of the XJ220 road car which, with its 213mph top speed, captured

headlines as the world's fastest production model.

To reinforce the point that Le Mans racers should be at home on a trip to the shops, C-Type owners are driving their cars almost 700 miles to the race track, demonstrating that the cars are as docile in traffic as they are aggressive in the showdown of competition.

Owners, driving examples of the car's most famous models wheeled out specially for the occasion, joined this

week in a celebratory dinner at Jaguar's factory in Coventry before setting out from Warwickshire.

Tom Jones, Jaguar's chief engineer until the 1980s, who worked on the C-Type's engine and gearbox, was there along with Ted Brooks and John Lee, members of the 1953 winning pit crew. Duncan Hamilton and Tony Rolt, the drivers of the winning number 18 car, were unable to attend but their sons, Stewart

Hamilton and Adrian Rolt, took part in the cavalcade.

Also at the dinner was Pat Menzies, the veteran correspondent who was the doyen of the motor-racing corps. He covered the 1953 victory as one of his first jobs for the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*.

He says: "Jaguar is such a famous marque that it is recognised anywhere in the world. Its Le Mans successes established a legend which continues to this day. Walk

into any remote village in any country in the world and eyes will light up when people hear the word Jaguar."

Alan Lloyd, noted Jaguar driver of the year, is not old enough to remember the 1953 win, but he understands the charisma of a marque that he now collects enthusiastically.

"The C-Type is part of a wonderful tradition," he says, "one of which Britain can be proud."

Jaguar goes to Le Mans in high spirits after recovering from three of the toughest years in its history. After 1990, as sales were halved, the company made a third of its 12,000 workforce redundant.

However, executives are now predicting a recovery and estimate that sales this year could be up 30 per cent against the trend of a worldwide slump in sales of luxury cars.

KEVIN EASON

Even a 'liberated' man can turn into a chauvinist pig behind the wheel

Woe betide the woman driver

She is never allowed to drive to the pub but somehow always ends up with the privilege of getting her partner home. Kevin Eason writes. Even when she gets behind the wheel, she is likely to be the victim of a pointing, bickering, nervous wreck in the passenger seat.

When it comes to driving, women have never had an easy ride from men. Sit next to any man when he spots an idiot in front causing havoc and the first reaction is often: "I'll bet it's a woman."

Travelling insurance company statistics, however, and you will find that women have accident records so good in comparison to men that they can win discounts.

The number of women drivers is increasing fast. There are now an estimated 12 million women at the wheel — almost double the 1987 figure — and just as many pass their test annually as men.

Car manufacturers have long understood that women influence car-purchase decisions — even if they may not always write the cheque. Women push and prod their partners into colour choice but rarely have enough clout to choose the model.

In fact, only 52 per cent of women have their names on registration documents.

When the Automobile Association interviewed more than 600 women to find out just how influential women are at the wheel, it discovered that the battle of the sexes runs deep in the psyche of motorists. For example, 79 per cent say that their man usually drives on an outing.

Party nights, particularly, expose the male chauvinism: only 19 per cent of women are allowed to drive to an evening involving drinking, yet 56 per cent have to run their tired and emotional partners home.

Even when men are in the passenger seat, they behave badly. Les Dawson could have

devised a sketch around their comic capers as backseat drivers with mannersisms that would make mothers-in-law seem as calm as Mother Teresa.

"Take this quote from one interviewee who told the AA: "My husband's virtually driven for me. I'm sitting there and there's the horn going, there's the indicator but I'm in the driving seat not touching them. Sometimes, I could knuckle him."

Child passengers sometimes notice the tension between the sexes. One said: "When Mum and Dad go out for the day, she drives, and he fidgets and jumps."

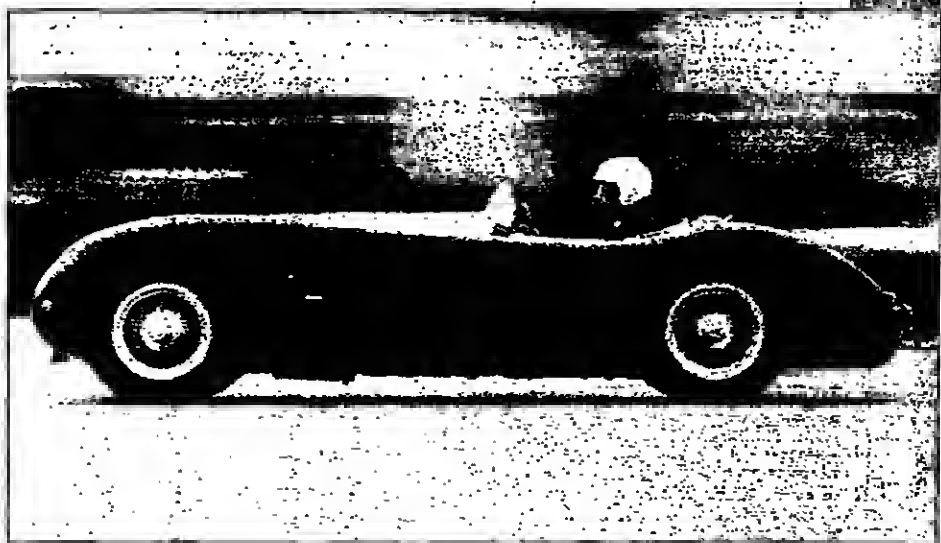
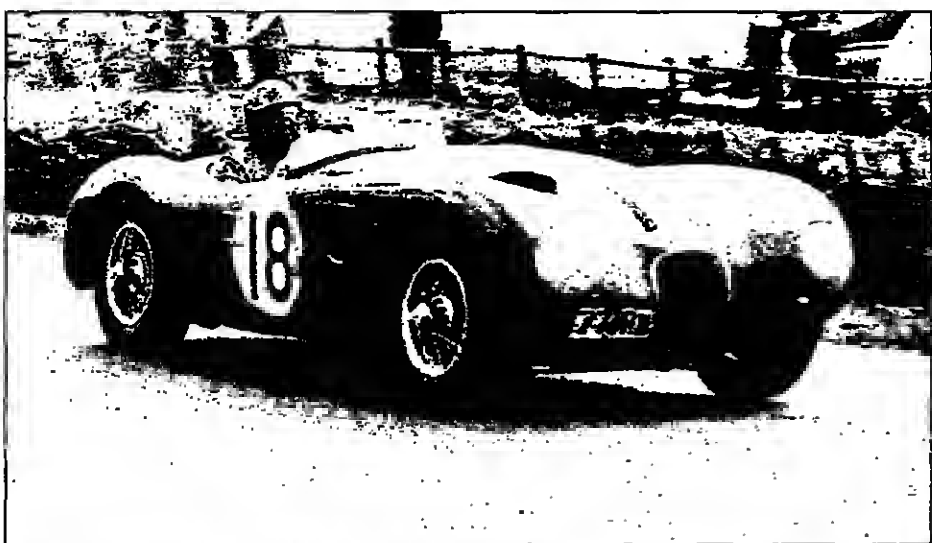
The typical profile built up by the AA highlights the fact that women drivers are still forced to play a secondary role to men. This hypothetical woman started lessons at 22 years of age and passed her test at 24; her man started driving at 19 and passed at 21.

She drives a six-year-old Ford Fiesta an average 5,400 miles annually; he has a five-year-old Ford Sierra in which he covers 8,300 miles a year.

She hates driving in the dark but dislikes using public transport at night rather than the car because she feels afraid; he positively enjoys driving alone at night and refuses to use public transport because he cannot be bothered.

In fact, that fear of being alone at night in a car prevents some women from having a full social life simply because they do not want to use public transport or are afraid of being stranded at the roadside if their car breaks down.

Maybe that culture change could start at the wheel with some men dropping the aggression that so many display driving cars like high-speed Chieftain tanks without thought or care for those around them.



See C rider: the Jaguar on the way to first place at Le Mans in 1953, left, and a C-Type returning to the scene of the triumph, right, to celebrate 40 years of further big cat success on the circuit

Tribute to Hunt

A TRIBUTE to James Hunt, the Formula One world champion who died this week, will be the centrepiece of Britain's biggest classic car sale which starts tomorrow at Sandown Park, near Kingston upon Thames. Hunt was due to appear at Sandown alongside some of the cars which featured in his career, including the McLaren M23 in which he won his 1976 F1 championship.

Organisers considered cancelling but have now decided that a display of the Hunt cars will be a tribute to one of the nation's most charismatic drivers.

At the same time, car owners can take part in an unconventional sale. For a flat fee of £50 (less 10 per cent for club members), owners can park their cars and then find a buyer. A qualified engineer will be on hand to carry out inspections on re-

quest while a private office will be available where deals can be struck. Enquiries about the two-day show to Motor Exhibitions on 0844-201044.

Goodwood greets LIKE father, like son, Damon Hill will be giving a demonstration drive tomorrow in the Jaguar 3.8 Mark II his father, Graham Hill, raced at Goodwood, near Chichester, West Sussex.

Hill junior, now racing in

the successful Williams-Renault Formula One team, will show off the car in practice sessions for the Goodwood Festival of Speed starting tomorrow. Also there will be the former champion John Surtees, Ron Dennis (head of the McLaren F1 team), Nick Mason (drummer with Pink Floyd) and Rowan Atkinson.

Alfa incentives ALFA ROMEO is trying to revive its fortunes in Britain by introducing a three-year



Alfa Romeo 16-valve: backed by a range of incentives

ROADWISE

warranty for its new 33 model range. Until August, buyers get three-year or 60,000-mile cover plus eight-year anti-rust warranty. AA membership and a remote control alarm/immobiliser. The package is worth £1,000 on cars costing £11,210-£13,010.

Beaulieu rockers THE National Motor Museum at Beaulieu is promising a weekend of rock and roll to celebrate the cars of the fifties and sixties. There will be film shows, music and dance to enhance the appearance of some stunning models from the era that produced Bill Haley, Elvis and the Beatles. Admission is free for all drivers in a pre-1970 vehicle. More details from 0590 612443.

Breakdown offer BRITAIN'S newest roadside organisation promises a 30 per cent membership discount if its breakdown trucks fail to meet their estimated

time of arrival. The CARE Breakdown Recovery Club says its 'Super-CARE' members will save £19.50 on their annual fees if it fails to meet expectations.

Diesel sales leap DIESEL-CAR sales continue to soar, up by 79.8 per cent on last year. Diesel cars now take 18 per cent of overall car sales, the highest point so far as motorists switch to the more economical fuel source.

Anti-lock Nissan NISSAN will be first to equip all of its mid-range cars with anti-lock brakes as standard. All Primera cars coming from the plant at Washington, Tyne & Wear, will get ABS, making the model the first in the medium sector to have the system as standard against competition from the Ford Mondeo, Vauxhall Cavalier, Rover 600 and Peugeot 405.

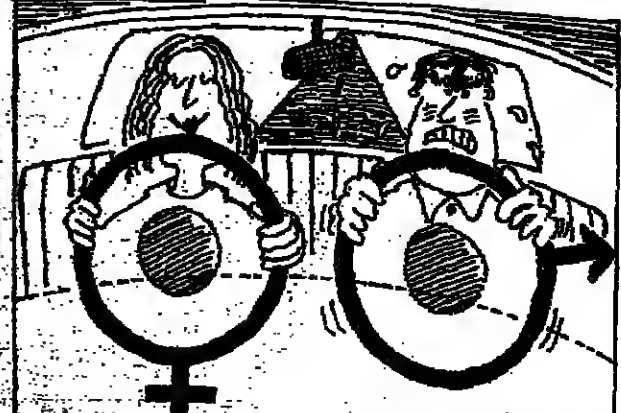
Ford goes 4WD THE FIRST of Ford's new

four-wheel-drive vehicles are in Britain. The Maverick is Ford's answer to Land Rover's immensely successful Discovery range. It is made by Nissan in Spain.

Belgium easier Holidaymakers bound for Belgium will get an easier ride from this week. A new 60km section of the A16 motorway from Calais, on the French coast, to the Belgian border has just opened, halving the old one-hour journey time. The new road connects with the motorway networks for the Benelux countries: Germany and Scandinavia.

Old beats new Question: when is an old car worth more than a new car? Answer: when it is a BMW, according to Glass's Guide, the motor industry bible on prices.

The publication says that a used BMW 318is could fetch £17,775 at auction at the moment, that is three per cent more than the list price a year ago of £17,250 and only £200 behind the current list.



NEWS

Jobless fall boosts recovery hope

■ The government won a double boost with the unemployment total dropping by 26,100, its fourth consecutive monthly fall, and inflation unchanged at 1.3 per cent.

The announcements came after Kenneth Clarke, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, persuaded the cabinet to fix a public spending target hailed by the government as the toughest for 15 years. The aim is to keep the growth in spending less than the growth in the economy. Pages 1, 25

Nadir threatens 'a Watergate'

■ An embittered Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman at the heart of a row over Tory party funding, has threatened complete disclosure about the conduct of government ministers which he says will have more damaging repercussions than the Watergate affair. Pages 1, 2

War lord hunted

The United Nations ordered the arrest of Mogadishu's infamous warlord, Muhammad Farrah Aidid, hours after a six-nation force had launched an air bombardment and house-to-house fighting in the narrow back streets of the Somali capital. Pages 1, 13

Supergun charges

A three-year City enquiry into the affairs of an engineering firm set to supply fuel for the Iraqi supergun has heard wide-ranging allegations involving British politicians and civil servants, illegal arms deals and the security forces. Page 1, 25

Gay march

As thousands of gay men and women prepared for a march through central London tomorrow, police warned that speculation about the state of mind of a serial killer could provoke him to kill again. Pages 1, 7

Health failure

Health authorities broke the law in the way they closed the only hospital unit in the world ready to treat two-year-old Rhys Daniels for a genetic disease, the High Court ruled. Page 5

M-way division

Plans for a £300 million motorway in South Wales to serve the new Severn bridge were welcomed by industrialists as a boost for the local economy but were condemned by environmentalists. Page 7

Nurse denies mouse sandwich

■ A nurse was sacked from a nursing home after being accused of putting a dead mouse in her boss's sandwich, an industrial tribunal was told. Deborah Wale, 19, denied the charge and told the hearing that she had suffered persistent sexual harassment. She had found the mouse in a loft and had left it on a trolley. Page 7

Horse trial fear

Concern is growing about the safety of horse trials after a rider was killed in Northumberland in the third fatal accident of its kind in three weeks. Page 3

Shipping ban

Hundreds of substandard foreign-flagged ships face being banned from European Community waters under proposals being discussed by transport ministers. Page 8

Bosnia rejection

President Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina forcefully rejected any plan that would divide the former Yugoslav republic into three mini-states and said he refused to return to Geneva for further talks. Page 12

Clinton victory

President Clinton scored an unexpectedly swift victory when senators agreed on a modified version of his economic plan, paving the way for the deficit-reduction programme. Page 14

Yeltsin's deal

President Yeltsin's legal aide said that he had clinched a power-sharing deal with Russia's autonomous republics to stave off civil war. Page 15

Dockyard fight

Nuclear submarine workers at Devonport have written to ministers to dissuade the cabinet from switching support from Devonport to Rosyth for the Trident contract. Page 10



Global warming: hats depicting the world and summer flowers were sported at Ascot on Ladies Day yesterday. Racing, page 45

Lord Hanson regrets

Hanson has backed down on plans to limit shareholder access to annual meetings after a chorus of protest from institutional investors. Page 25

Heathrow talks

Trade chiefs Sir Leon Brittan and Mickey Kantor met for six hours in a "secret" meeting at a Heathrow hotel ahead of the world trade talks in Japan. Pages 25, 26

Markets

Worse-than-expected US trade figures depressed the dollar, helping the pound to gain almost 1 cent to \$1.532 in London. Sterling was also firmer against the mark, closing at DM2.5084, up 1.59 pence. The FTSE index was down 7.3 at 2875.7. Page 28

Cricket

Michael Slater scored his maiden Test century at Lord's in the second Test. He made 152 in a record stand of 260 with Mark Taylor and at the close Australia were 292-2. Page 48

Basketball

Simon Barnes watches Michael Jordan score 55 points in an "extraordinary display of virtuosity" as the Chicago Bulls beat the Phoenix Suns 111-105 to take a 3-1 lead in the NBA finals. Page 43

Rugby Union

Wade Dooley, who returned to England when his father died, will not be rejoining the British Lions in New Zealand, after a ruling that, if he accepted an invitation to return, he would not be allowed to play. Page 43

Margot Norman

I tramped the streets looking for a hat-shaped like a bucket. Preferably two buckets, actually. One to keep my ears warm, the other to catch the cats and dogs tipping down from on high. Page 16

One more time

Simon and Garfunkel are getting back together and even the three remaining Beatles are hinting at a reunion. What makes them want to play it again? Page 17

Kerb curb

What drives a motorist to fight it out for just a few feet of pavement space? Kevin Eason reports. Page 23

Chelsea parade

One of the biggest outdoor sculpture shows mounted in Britain opened this week by the Thames at Chelsea Harbour. Sixty living British artists are represented, and the exhibition spans traditional and modern. Page 35

Innocents in the park

At the Open Air Theatre in Regents Park, Dame Judi Dench's production of *Romeo and Juliet* has a young actor and actress who have never performed Shakespeare professionally before. Page 36

Rock down a cut-de-dec

With so much "sampling" of other people's work happening, does rock music have a future of recycling? Jeremy Beadle argues his case. Page 37

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Andrew Lloyd Webber

■ When he isn't composing hit musicals, he's doing good works for his country... Alan Franks is granted an audience with the monarch of melody

Winning hit at Wimbledon

■ How the householders of Wimbledon, and even the church, find money-spinning opportunities on the sidelines of the All England tennis tournament

The jury is still out

■ The National Theatre unveils its new production of John Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence*, starring Trevor Eve. Benedict Nightingale delivers a verdict



Will Carling has been left out of the Lions XV to face Auckland which almost certainly means he will not play in the second Test. Page 43

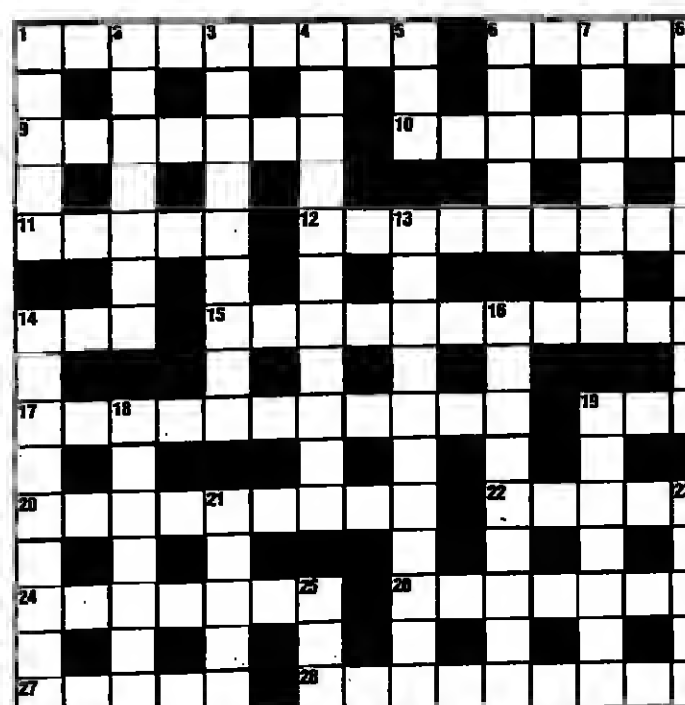


Stephanie Slater told a jury that on the first night she was locked in a box by her kidnapper, she saw a vision of Christ and thought she had died. Page 3



Harold Pinter is furious that the BBC, which part-funded his film of Kafka's *The Trial*, is screening the Orson Welles version on TV. Page 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,260



- ACROSS
- Nominal subscription (9).
 - Sort of crossword one's said to always remember (5).
 - Sick Parisian here? Therapy's beginning for invalid (7).
 - German city provided backing for manoeuvre at bridge (7).
 - Greek letters in work of art (5).
 - Young man, losing head, at random may turn to her (5,4).
 - Vessel to make sound (3).
 - Chips, for example, hard to beat on board (5,6).
 - Deoxy manoeuvre pilot goes on (5,6).
 - Headquarters in Cornwall and West Devon, perhaps (3).
 - Following young man's advice, and so perishing (5,4).
 - Labour in trouble (5).
- DOWN
- Be sparing with cream on top of pie (5).
 - Bitterness over English appearing on Spanish ship (7).
 - Port — a variety passed round right to left (9).
 - Blue material 14oz mixed (1,1).
 - Mischievous child finishing the playful off (3).
 - Early factory machine producing disastrous pocketing (5).
 - Among limes, quite small tree of another sort (7).
 - Defeat as result of poor fielding (9).
 - Way in which they were knocked in the air (3,4,4).
 - Not getting a reference, say, so denied clear prospects (9).
 - A new Italian city's becoming state capital (9).
 - Getting old in the ring, and less menacing (7).
 - Fanciful conception in correspondence with artist (7).
 - Stern and bow of yacht in need of cleaning (5).
 - Only daughter did some work at last (5).
 - Reveals oddly gutted fish (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,259



For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701	Wales	702
East of England	703	West of England	704
North East	705	North West	706
Yorkshire & the Humber	707	West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709	South East	710
South West	711	London & SE	712
London & SE	713	London & SE	714
London & SE	715	London & SE	716
London & SE	717	London & SE	718
London & SE	719	London & SE	720
London & SE	721	London & SE	722
London & SE	723	London & SE	724
London & SE	725	London & SE	726
London & SE	727	London & SE	728

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731	London & SE	732
London & SE	733	London & SE	734
London & SE	735	London & SE	736
London & SE	737	London & SE	738
London & SE	739	London & SE	740
London & SE	741	London & SE	742
London & SE	743	London & SE	744
London & SE	745	London & SE	746
London & SE	747	London & SE	748
London & SE	749	London & SE	750

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

Australia \$	2.51	Bank	2.11
Austria \$	13.60	Bank	17.18
Belgium \$	54.40	Bank	30.00
Canada \$	2.04	Bank	1.85
Denmark \$	10.18	Bank	8.35
Finland \$	9.00	Bank	8.20
France \$	8.96	Bank	8.16
Germany \$	2.63	Bank	2.43
Greece \$	354.02	Bank	320.00
Hong Kong \$	12.20	Bank	11.50
Ireland \$	1.07	Bank	0.98
Italy \$	2890.00	Bank	2815.00
Japan \$	174.50	Bank	169.50
Netherlands \$	2.96	Bank	2.73
Norway \$	11.12	Bank	10.32
Portugal \$	248.40	Bank	230.40
South Africa \$	6.25	Bank	5.75
Spain \$	166.80	Bank	158.50
Sweden \$	11.77	Bank	10.97
Switzerland \$	2.18	Bank	2.00
Turkey \$	16300.0	Bank	1473
USA \$	1.08	Bank	1.00

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Cloudy and wet at first. Northern Ireland and much of

England and Wales will become brighter, but showers are likely. Southern England and south Wales should become drier. After a wet morning, southern Scotland will have showers and some sunshine. Northern Scotland will stay cloudy with rain. Becoming breezy in the south. Cool in the rain in the north. Outlook: cloudy with rain in the south. Bright with showers in the north.

MIDDAY: 1 = thunder, 2 = drizzle, 3 = fog, 4 = sun, 5 = rain, 6 = snow, 7 = hail, 8 = sleet, 9 = ice, 10 = rain, 11 = snow, 12 = hail, 13 = sleet, 14 = ice, 15 = rain, 16 = snow, 17 = hail, 18 = sleet, 19 = ice, 20 = rain, 21 = snow, 22 = hail, 23 = sleet, 24 = ice, 25 = rain, 26 = snow, 27 = hail, 28 = sleet, 29 = ice, 30 = rain, 31 = snow, 32 = hail, 33 = sleet, 34 = ice, 35 = rain, 36 = snow, 37 = hail, 38 = sleet, 39 = ice, 40 = rain, 41 = snow, 42 = hail, 43 = sleet, 44 = ice, 45 = rain, 46 = snow, 47 = hail, 48 = sleet, 49 = ice, 50 = rain, 51 = snow, 52 = hail, 53 = sleet, 54 = ice, 55 = rain, 56 = snow, 57 = hail, 58 = sleet, 59 = ice, 60 = rain, 61 = snow, 62 = hail, 63 = sleet, 64 = ice, 65 = rain, 66 = snow, 67 = hail, 68 = sleet, 69 = ice, 70 = rain, 71 = snow, 72 = hail, 73 = sleet, 74 = ice, 75 = rain, 76 = snow, 77 = hail, 78 = sleet, 79 = ice, 80 = rain, 81 = snow, 82 = hail, 83 = sleet, 84 = ice, 85 = rain, 86 = snow, 87 = hail, 88 = sleet, 89 = ice, 90 = rain, 91 = 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INFOTECH 32-34

And lo, it came to pass by fax

ARTS 35-37

All lit up: sculpture by the water at Chelsea Harbour

SPORT 43-48

Australia take command of Lord's Test

THE TIMES

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FRIDAY JUNE 18 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

EBB AND FLOW



Ian Byatt, director-general of water services, said there must be a trade-off between water quality and higher bills

LOW TIDE

Regalian Properties incurred losses of £83.5 million last year after writing down its residential holdings by £44.9 million

ON THE CREST



The management buy-out team at Leyland DAF has come out fighting, confident the reshaped company has a brighter future

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5132 (+0.0089)
German mark 2.5084 (+0.0159)
Exchange Index 79.9 (+0.5)
Bank of England official base (4pm)

STOCK MARKET
FT-SE 100 2875.7 (+7.3)
Dow Jones 3512.20 (+0.55)
Nikkei Ave 19225.51 (+23.08)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 5 1/8%
US Federal Funds 3 1/8%
3-month Treas Bill 3.03-3.04%
Long Bond 6.07%

CURRENCIES

New York: £\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155
S\$ 1.5155

GOLD

London Fixing 85:
AM 389.40 PM 389.45
Close 370.90-371.30
New York
Comex 371.25-371.75

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 140.8 April (1.3%)
Denotes midday trading price



Airport rendezvous: Mickey Kantor and Sir Leon Brittan, the US and EC trade chiefs, emerging yesterday from a secretive Heathrow huddle (Report, page 26)

Inspectors find deceit and failure at Astra

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

INSPECTORS probing the affairs of Astra Holdings, the company at the heart of the Iraqi supergun affair, have uncovered a catalogue of failure and deceit, including the deliberate inflation of the company's profits by means of a false invoice created by a former director. But they have stopped short of looking into the deal by which an Astra subsidiary was to supply the supergun with propellant, despite a wealth of allegations from former managers against senior politicians, civil servants and the security services.

The inspectors — from the DTI — felt, despite pleas to the contrary from Gerald James, former chairman of Astra, such enquiries went beyond the boundaries of their appointment, and the evidence is not included in the 545-page inquiry. Few involved with the company during the 1980s emerge with any credit from a report that was three years in the making. Among those criticised with much of the former board are Paine-Webber, the financial adviser, Hitchens, Harrison & Co, the stockbroker, and Baileys, Shaw & Gillett, the solicitor.

City advisers, directors and even the Stock Exchange emerge badly from the DTI report into the Astra takeover of a Belgian contractor to the Iraqi supergun

The firm's auditor, Stoy Hayward, also overseer of the Polly Peck collapse, is taken to task in respect of the preparation of Astra's report and accounts for 1986, 1987 and 1988, which the DTI report says did not show a true picture of the company's financial affairs. In February last year, Astra, many of whose woes dated from the acquisition of PRB, the Belgian armaments maker, in 1989, went into receivership owing £50 million despite the best efforts of Roy Barber, the company doctor, and a new management.

In August 1990, Colin Rimer and John White had been appointed inspectors under the Companies Act. But they have not felt able to investigate the supergun affair or other alleged illegal arms trading with Iraq, despite the allegations made by Mr James. These involved "senior UK politicians and civil servants and allegations of illegal arms deals involving foreign governments and government

agencies and the security services of the UK and of other countries," the report notes, but gives no details. Mr James gave evidence to a House of Commons select committee into arms to Iraq, which is still the subject of an enquiry by Lord Justice Scott. The latter may call the former board as witnesses in due course. The DTI is taking legal advice over the possible disqualification of former Astra directors, but no criminal proceedings are planned.

The DTI said it had sent the report to the Serious Fraud Office for its consideration, but a spokeswoman for the SFO commented: "We vetted the case and decided not to take it on, and sent the papers back to the DTI." The SFO would not say why they took the decision, but the prosecuting authority normally restricts itself to looking at alleged fraud that is a matter of public interest, where there is a degree of complexity and where significant funds are involved (often a lower limit of

£5 million). The DTI said criminal charges were not planned, only disqualification of the directors. Stoy Hayward said it was "astonished" to learn of the actions of the former directors but said the inspectors had concluded there was no evidence to suggest the auditor should have known of these. Stoy Hayward said points in the report that affected the auditor were "concerned with interpretational or judgmental conclusions". These were refuted, and Stoy Hayward will make its views known to the DTI. The Stock Exchange, singled out for its regulatory role during the 1989 rights issue that funded the PRB purchase, was contrite. "We're very sorry about it," said a spokeswoman. "It was quite a long time ago and we've had management changes since and tightened up our control, so it won't happen again."

The most damning allegation in the report is that while Astra's accounts for the year to March 1986 disclosed profits of £340,000, about 70 per cent of this was accounted for by the inclusion of a false invoice. The inspectors decided that £120,000 of the money used to settle the invoice came from the bank account of John Anderson, a former director,

who stands accused of deliberately trying to mislead the inquiry. Mr James's involvement was unclear, but the report finds that "he knows the whole story relating to the invoice, but that he was not prepared to tell us". Also condemned as refusing to tell is Christopher Gumbley, the former managing director, while James Miller, the former finance director, is said to have misled the inspectors.

Hanson loses to institutions

By NEIL BENNETT

HANSON, the Anglo-American conglomerate, has backed down in attempts to win greater control of its annual meetings only after a chorus of protest from institutional shareholders. The group has scrapped a motion on the subject at its extraordinary meeting next week.

Lord Hanson, the chairman, announced the U-turn yesterday and said the group will hold another egm next month to reinstate the company's proposals for a scrip dividend alternative to its normal cash payment which will be lost by the withdrawal of the motion. Only days ago the group had insisted the meeting would go ahead as planned.

"My previous letter to shareholders... apparently gave some the impression that we were seeking to take draconian powers over shareholders and to restrict their rights. This I regret as, needless to say, this was not my intention," he said.

The company had been asking its shareholders to approve a motion which

would prevent anyone with less than 10 per cent of the shares nominating a director and stop anyone with less than a 5 per cent stake proposing an amendment to a motion. Lord Hanson would have also been given powers to prevent anyone speaking more than once on a motion at the annual meeting, in an attempt to gag trouble-causers and hecklers. The motion needed a 75 per cent majority.

The group was forced to withdraw the motion when it was contacted by a series of powerful shareholders who were prepared to oppose it.

The United Mineworkers of America, another Hanson investor, said the move was a victory for shareholder rights. The union represents 3,000 employees of Peabody, the group's coal mining subsidiary, who are striking to win better contract terms. Kenneth Zinn, the union's special projects co-ordinator, said the union plans to protest about the strike at next week's meeting.

Tempos, page 29

Underlying inflation rate at 25-year-low

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ANNUAL inflation, at its lowest for more than 29 years, held steady at 1.3 per cent last month, but the more important underlying measure edged down from 2.9 per cent to 2.8 per cent, its lowest for a quarter of a century, government figures show.

Further deceleration in underlying inflation was welcomed by the Treasury and reinforced the City view that inflation is under control as the economy starts to recover.

But the fresh fall in unemployment, plus the Bundesbank decision to leave its key lending rates unchanged, appeared to dash market hopes

of an imminent cut in British base rates. At the official 4pm London close, sterling stood at DM12.5084, up more than 1.5 pence. On a trade-weighted basis, it rose 0.4 to 79.8.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, told the Commons that changes in interest rates "can only be taken when one has the right circumstances".

The RPI rose 0.4 per cent in May to 141.1, giving an annual rise of 1.3 per cent. Underlying inflation was up 0.3 per cent in May, bringing the annual rate down to 2.8 per cent.

Leading article, page 19
Car sales boom, page 26

Why summer sales are starting early

The Treasury is trying to put a brave face on it. Officials explain that the weakening of retail sales last month was due only to a fall of nearly 6 per cent in clothing shops, because of bad weather — or, if you talk to another official, because the end of the spring clearance sales. Both plausible — though a wet May is hardly unknown here, and as the Australian cricketers can testify, there were some bright intervals.

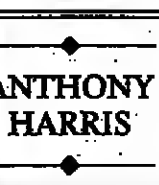
But if we settle for the price explanation, what does that "only" mean? Just what officials usually mean: that someone is trying to avoid thinking about a possibly important change. Acknowledge it, and you would have to try to estimate it, and then re-work a lot of price elasticity equations. Hard labour — but the model-builders should grit their teeth and start work.

The solidest evidence of a sea-change comes from the US. The current boom in office equipment (output up some 30 per cent in two years) is all cut-price. "Sale" stickers have become a semi-permanent feature of shop window displays, yet the traditional stores have been having a thin recovery. In the early stages, virtually the whole growth in nation-

wide consumer spending went to just two store groups, Walmart and K-Mart, both famous for their keen prices. They have attracted imitators, and no longer hog the market — but cut-price is still the rule.

We do not get these helpful group-by-group figures on this side of the Atlantic, but there is plenty of anecdotal evidence. The stock market has already shaded its valuation of the main, high-margin supermarket chains because of growing competition from Kwik-Save and other price cutters; while in France, the explosive growth of the Leclerc chain and its rivals show how far this challenge could develop. A walk in London provides more. Cut-price books are already familiar, and some of the summer sales that traditionally start in late July have already opened. There is more to come: the chief executive of Volkswagen predicts merciless price pressure for the rest of the decade.

It is easy to understand why US buyers have become so tight-fisted:



ANTHONY HARRIS

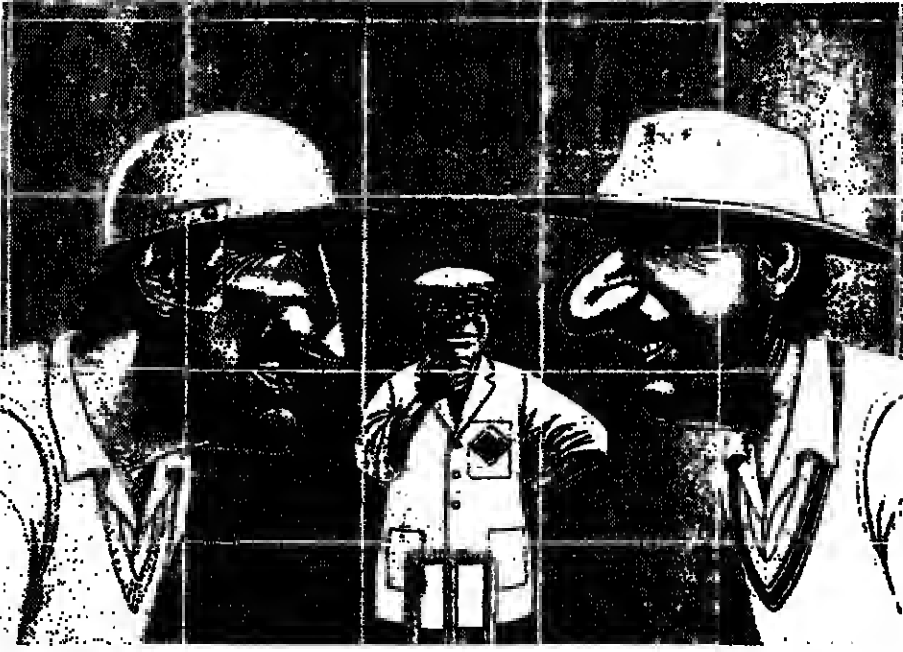
their real earnings have been stagnant for a decade. The French, too, have suffered a long squeeze, and Leclerc is doing for them what Sir Thomas Lipson did for the British working class in the long depression a century ago. In Britain, by contrast, the consumer boom is a recent memory, and the figures have shown strongly rising real incomes until this year. Spending, however, is constrained not only by the fear of unemployment, but by the unofficial tax levied by the banks on top of their lending squeeze.

This has not been measured anywhere but, as has been stressed by William Siedman, the man who sorted out the US Savings and Loans mess, it is not trivial. Savers have had their incomes cut drastically (one reason why the Conservatives are losing seats), but borrowers are still paying money-lender rates. These vastly increased margins, on a loan book about equal to a year's national income, must have swallowed at least 2 per cent of

incomes — probably more. Later, we will be able to estimate the burden from bank annual statements: add the rise in profits to the sums provided for bad debts, and you have the scale of it.

In due course, the bank tax will abate, as bankruptcies fall off and the bankers begin to compete for new business; to judge by Texas figures, this recovery takes about eight years. However, the governments of Britain, the US and most European countries will take up where the banks leave off: they have hardly begun to charge us for their own recessionary costs (mainly supporting the unemployed). As M Balladur has been warning us from Paris, and as the EC economists confirmed yesterday, this is not a cyclical accident, but a blinding medium-term headache.

There is little need to spell out the implications for profit margins or for luxury goods (such as cost-cutting at Mercedes). There is a need, to judge by the Mansion House speeches, to stress the happy implications for inflation; but no space. It all adds up to a stable but austere recovery. Never glad, confident morning again? Probably not, as long as there is a 19 at the top of the calendar.



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Trade chiefs in hush-hush Heathrow rendezvous

By Philip Pangalos
and Colin Nibbrough

MICKEY Kantor, America's trade representative, and Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner for trade, sought to speed up progress towards a world trade accord, but failed to resolve the inflamed issue of a bilateral telecommunications pact between Bonn and Washington.

After a six-hour, closed-door session at the Excelsior Hotel at Heathrow Airport, the trade negotiators disclosed little of the substance of the talks. But aides said the bilateral session focused mainly on market

access and was intended as groundwork for a four-cornered meeting next Wednesday and Thursday, in Tokyo, at which Sir Leon and Mr Kantor would be joined by their Japanese counterparts.

The pace of negotiations, aimed at a world trade deal, has heated up in recent weeks, with the Group of Seven leading industrial economies hoping to take a big step forward at the Tokyo summit early next month.

Mr Kantor said last week that Bonn and Washington had agreed to sidestep sanctions and counter-sanctions in a dispute over government contracts, prompting an outcry from

Brussels, which is appalled at Germany's attempt to ignore Community rules and conclude a bilateral deal with America.

Sir Leon said that the German-American deal did not help efforts to reach an early accord on liberalised world trade. "I think it certainly complicates the issue," he stressed, however, that the issue was not the main item at the Heathrow meeting.

Mr Kantor said the meeting was one of a series, leading up to the Tokyo meeting. Both he and Sir Leon were hopeful that progress would be made before the G7 summit.

But Sir Leon said: "We have got to

the stage where the pace is getting faster and the issues are getting more complex." He described the day as "very constructive and useful". Mr Kantor said that the meeting had been "looking at the building blocks to make up the package that we hope to put together in Japan". Sir Leon insisted that he and Mr Kantor had not been trying to make any bilateral agreements.

The talks were supposed to have been secret, but news of the meeting leaked out. The rather cloak-and-dagger rendezvous was also attended by a small team of advisers. Mr Kantor, who flew in the morning, left for

Washington immediately after the talks, and is scheduled to go to Japan.

Günter Rexrodt, the German economics minister, has written to Sir Leon that Germany sees no room to impose counter-sanctions against America in telecommunications. But he underlined that there was no German-American agreement about opening markets in telecommunications.

Herr Rexrodt said yesterday that the Uruguay round will have failed, if no agreement emerges by the end of this year. He said the damage to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would be "enormous".

Pay deals settle at 4% to halt decline

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

EARNINGS increases are sticking at 4 per cent, halting a trend of decline, according to government figures yesterday.

That steady, coupled with the sharp rise in the number of working days lost through industrial disputes, will concern ministers and business leaders who are looking for lower pay settlements, especially in the public sector.

Figures from the employment department showed the underlying increase in average earnings for the whole economy in April to be static at 4 per cent. Government economists accepted this was a setback, but thought the overall trend was likely to resume its downward course, pointing to a pay settlement rate that is still falling.

Pay deals feeding into this month's index included a rise for 207,000 non-manual retail food employees of 3.8 per cent (4.2 per cent last year), 2.9 per cent (3.7 per cent) for 190,000 workers covered by the food wages council and 1.5 per cent for 136,000 civil service support staff (from 4.25 per cent) and 111,000 doctors and dentists (from 6 per cent).

Manufacturing earnings increased by 5 per cent, a rise on last month's figure of 4.75 per cent, though the increase was kept level by a revision to last month's figures to take them to 5 per cent.

Similar revisions were made for earnings rises in the production sector.

Earnings increases in the service sector, though, continued their downward trend, falling from 3.75 to 3.5 per cent. All the figures also remain at 25-year lows, since

earnings were running at 2.5 per cent in the early 1970s.

Unit labour cost rises also continued at near-record low levels. New figures for the manufacturing sector showed that wages and salaries per unit of output were 2.8 per cent lower than the corresponding period a year ago. This is below the rise in average earnings because of the continuing rises in productivity—7.8 per cent over the period.

But in the face of the still low figures on earnings and unit wage costs, the labour market figures measuring industrial disputes showed a marked rise in April, reflecting the strikes in the rail and coal industries over jobs. Working days lost through strikes jumped from 70,000 in March to 150,000 in April—the highest monthly figure since March 1990, when 236,000 days were lost.

Of these days lost, 75 per cent were in the transport and communication sector—mainly the two 24-hour strikes that halted British Rail's network, with 25,000 days accounted for by the coal strikes. The number of disputes recorded by the employment department fell from 29 to 19, but the number of workers involved rose from 29,000 to 34,000.

The days lost in the spring strikes will push up the eventual annual total for 1993 beyond the record low levels recorded in previous recent years, but Whitehall officials stressed yesterday that the disputes were very concentrated in particular sectors and had not spread out more widely among the workforce.



Driving forces: Cor Baan, left, with David Gill and John Gilchrist yesterday

Nissan case 'based in Japan'

By a Correspondent

A JURY was urged to spare Michael Hunt, Nissan UK's managing director, from his "ordeal" by clearing him of charges that he helped siphon off more than £200 million of his company's profits.

Michael Sherrard QC, defending, said the Southwark Crown Court trial, held centred on claims that those at the top of Nissan UK had spent nearly 17 years cheating the Inland Revenue out of £97 million in corporation tax.

There had been allegations that the Worthing importers and distributors of Britain's best-selling foreign-made car had used "sham" shipping agents and "bogus" invoices, and laundered huge amounts through Swiss bank accounts. But Mr Sherrard claimed an "invisible army of non-witnesses from Japan" had left the prosecution case with large gaps in its evidence.

The defence case was that the fraud had not been carried

out by those in Nissan UK, but may have been perpetrated by the Japanese car makers themselves against their own tax authorities.

Mr Hunt, 59, of Tongdean Avenue, Hove, East Sussex, denies two counts of conspiracy to cheat the Revenue and two alternative conspiracy charges of making use of false accounting documents between October 1975 and December 1991.

The trial was adjourned until next Tuesday.

Leyland DAF team comes out fighting

By Philip Pangalos

LEYLAND DAF Trucks, the new company bought out of receivership by a management team last week to control marketing and sales activities of the Leyland DAF Trucks range in the UK, is "coming out fighting", according to David Gill, managing director of the new company.

Mr Gill said that Leyland DAF Trucks, a subsidiary of DAF Trucks NV of Eindhoven, had all the attributes necessary to play a leading role in the British truck industry. He predicted that the annual market for trucks over 3.5 tonnes in the UK would rise to between 33,000 and 34,000 in 1993, representing an increase of between 5 and 9 per cent on 1992.

Cor Baan, chairman of DAF Trucks NV, said that DAF Trucks hoped to realise the sale of more than 10,000 trucks, worth some £740 million, in its first year of trading after emerging from receivership in March.

Mr Baan said he was pleased that DAF Trucks has been able to conclude a long-term buying contract with Leyland Trucks Manufacturing, the new business involving the truck assembly operations at Leyland, Lancashire.

John Gilchrist, chief executive of Leyland Trucks Manufacturing, refused to discuss any of the financial details of the management buyout. It is understood, however, that Barclays Development Capital provided £5 million of funds, while National Westminster has funded working capital requirements.

He said Leyland Trucks Manufacturing would have a first-year turnover of about £140 million, including £50 million from DAF Trucks' purchase of 45 Series trucks and associated parts for sale on the Continent. Commercial vehicle sales and military sales to the defence ministry account for 96 per cent of all sales.

US trade deficit worsens

From Wolfgang Münchau in Washington

AMERICA'S trade deficit deteriorated to the worst level since December 1988 because of an unexpectedly sharp fall in exports. The latest trade statistics paint a picture of an economy unable to surmount its structural trade deficits, especially with Japan and most recently China, and will boost the hardliners in the Clinton administration, who advocated trade policies to bring down the deficit.

The merchandising trade deficit was \$10.49 billion in April, according to the Commerce Department, similar to the revised March data of \$10.45bn. The combined US

trade deficit for the first four months of the year was \$36.5 billion, again the worst performance since 1988. Both the revised figure for March and the April data are significantly higher than what had been predicted by analysts.

America's entering a deficit with most of the industrialised world, especially South-East Asia, but also Canada. The deficit with Japan widened in April to \$5.5 billion, the largest since October 1987. The March deficit was \$5.26 billion. The US has, however, achieved a small surplus in trade with western Europe.

The worsening of the trade

deficit underlines the deterioration in the economic performance of America's key export markets, which resulted in the unexpected 1.3 per cent fall in exports to \$38.38 billion.

Apart from the trade deficit, there was more bad news for the US economy yesterday. The Labour Department said that non-farm productivity, which rose strongly last year, declined by 1.6 per cent in the first quarter, the first decline in two years. However, the manufacturing sector continued to improve its efficiency, with productivity up by 4.8 per cent. In durable goods, it rose by 8.6 per cent.

Car output hits 16-year high

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

CAR production has reached its highest level for 16 years, underpinning government hopes that motor manufacturers can lead the fightback from recession.

Output of cars last month was 130,374, 23.78 per cent higher than the comparable period last year, and the highest May total since 1977. Production for the first five months of the year was also ahead by 9.08 per cent. British carmakers continue to defy the deep recession now sweeping through continental markets and also find new buyers in the rest of the world.

As a result, output for export in the first five months is 8.53 per cent up on the 247,438 total for the first five months of 1992. Last month's output for export was up by 10 per cent at 43,904, confirming the strong performance of British makers.

Car sales in the UK have led the way back from recession, starting to improve about 15 months ago and remaining

strong throughout this year. Manufacturers turned increasingly to exports to keep assembly lines running at full speed during the recession. Just as they conquered new markets in Europe, recession moved in, with overall European sales down about 17 per cent so far this year.

The brunt of the fall in sales has had to be borne by foreign manufacturers, with British

companies managing to maintain production. Roger King, director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "Bearing in mind the extremely depressed state of the new car market throughout mainland Europe, the UK's output during May is extremely good news."

"The export production figure is also encouraging and reflects the energies of our exporters in the present tough conditions." However, the output of commercial vehicle manufacturers fell last month for the fourth successive month to 14,913 vehicles, down from 22,106 a year ago. Export production also fell to 12,167 in May, 1992, to give a total output for export in the first five months of 1993 of 42,974, against 63,870 vehicles in the same period a year ago.

Commercial vehicle production in the first five months of 1993 dropped 37.2 per cent to 89,032 units.



King: "good news"

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Norco liquidation threatens 800 jobs

MORE than 800 jobs were under threat after a leading retailer said it was going into liquidation. The Northern Co-operative Society, north-east Scotland's biggest retailer and a main employer in Grampian for 130 years, said last month it was trying to save the business through a merger with the Co-op Wholesale Society. But the Norco board said the deal had fallen through and it had no choice but to go into liquidation.

In an attempt to pay off debts of £7 million, the directors sold off the company's dairies, pharmacies, warehouses and some superstores. A board statement said shares, development bonds and small savings accounts would be protected with all investors receiving full repayment of capital.

AAH increases payout

AAH Holdings, the healthcare and distribution group, reported pre-tax profits in the year to end-March of £37.3 million (£38.8 million, restated under FRS 3). Trading profits were up 16 per cent to £41.9 million. Adjusted earnings per share rose from 31.8p to 32.8p, and a final dividend of 11.5p makes a total for the year of 17.3p, up 5.8 per cent. Healthcare services contributed £31.3 million (£26.7 million).

Hardy Oil & Gas rises

HARDY Oil & Gas, the independent UK oil and gas exploration company, has pushed up after-tax profits to £10.2 million (£7.2 million) in the year to end-March, helped by higher volumes rather than the dollar price of oil. The company did benefit a little in the second half from the steep fall of sterling against the dollar. Earnings per share were 11.3p (8.3p) and there is an unchanged dividend for the full year of 1p.

Electra lifts asset values

ELECTRA Investment Trust, which specialises in venture capital and management buyouts, lifted its net asset per share by 14.7 per cent to 318.65p in the six months to end March. The increase is less than the 16.7 per cent rise in the FT All-Share index over the same period, but Electra's listed portfolio outperformed the index. Pre-tax profits rose £653,000 to £9.4 million. The interim of 3.45p is up from 3.3p last time.

Cater Allen advances

CATER Allen, the discount house and financial services group, reported profits up from £8.1 million to £11.7 million after tax and rebate in the year to the end of April. It said it intended to raise the next interim dividend by 1p to 8p. Next year's results will be produced under different accounting policies. The final dividend was maintained at 20p, making a total for the year of 27p, 1p up from last time.

GEI INTL (Fin)

Pre-tax: £2.1m (£2.8m)
EPS: 1.62p (EPS 5.88p)
Div: 2.47p, mkg 4.94p

OCEANA (Fin)

Pre-tax: £237,000
EPS: 10.10p (2.31p)
Div: 1.50p, mkg 1.50p

BRADSTOCK GROUP (Int)

Pre-tax: £4.5m (£4.2m)
EPS: 5.32p (4.65p)
Div: 1.55p (1.45p)

DART GROUP (Fin)

Pre-tax: £1.65m (£1.88m)
EPS: 7.50p (8.40p)
Div: 1.55p (1.45p)

DAVENPORT KNITWEAR

Pre-tax: £1.4m (£1.2m)
EPS: 56.72p (47.86p)
Div: 8.525p, mkg 8.525p

SAFELAND (Fin)

Pre-tax: £242,000
EPS: 1p (0.8p)
Div: 0.44p, mkg 0.50p

THOMAS LOCKER (Fin)

Pre-tax: £421,000
EPS: 0.42p (0.44p)
Div: 0.65p, mkg 1p (1p)

Last time's total dividend was 7.32p. Large amount of overseas earnings has led to high tax charge. Plan to cut costs.

Last time's profit was £72,000. Last time's dividend was 1p. Turnover rose to £11.3 million (£9 million).

Turnover rose to £14.4 million from £12.3 million last time. Several retail broking operations bought during year.

Profits fell mainly due to tighter margins in aviation services. Current trading indicates improved performance.

Final. Last time's total dividend was 9.25p. Turnover in the period rose from £7.5 million to £8.6 million.

Last time's profit was £167,000. Last time's total dividend was 0.28p. New subsidiary to focus on property insurance.

Last time's profit was £347,000. Group turnover in the period rose from £38.03 million to £37.61 million.

Severn Trent Preliminary Results

For the 12 months ended 31 March 1993

"The current year has started satisfactorily but as yet there are few signs of improvement in the economy. We will continue to maintain strict control of costs whilst developing the quality of our services to customers to ensure that further progress can be made this year."

John Bellak, Chairman, 17 June 1993

- Continued efficiency improvements
- Charter Mark for customer service
- Revenue and volume growth in waste management
- Continued high level of investment
- East Worcester Water performing successfully
- Highest profits from second lowest charges

	1993	1992	Increase
TURNOVER	£905m	£822m	10.1%
OPERATING PROFIT	£299m	£261m	14.6%
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	£270m	£265m	1.8%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	69.9p	68.2p	2.5%
TOTAL DIVIDEND PER SHARE	21.1p	19.3p	9.3%



These results are unaudited. A copy of the preliminary report will be sent to shareholders and may be obtained from: Company Secretary, Severn Trent Plc, 2500 Coventry Road, Birmingham B35 9PE.

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مكتبة الأمل

Byatt questions linkage of water quality and price

By George Sivel, City Editor

IAN Byatt, the director general of water services, says he will closely monitor customer reaction to calculations by the water companies, which reckon they will need to raise prices by 6 per cent above inflation for the next five years just to achieve European legal standards of water quality.

The companies' market plans, published last month, suggested that many of them could maintain or even reduce prices if they merely had to meet the standards set in 1989, when the industry was privatised.

Mr Byatt also pointed out yesterday that some companies say the bills they envisage are more than customers want to pay.

He added: "The scale of these issues makes it essential that the secretaries of state for the environment and for Wales should take positive action this summer when giving their perspective on the trade off between water quality and higher bills."

"What they decide will set the scene for the first review of all price limits next year."

Mr Byatt continued: "I congratulate the companies for producing these market plans. Unlike 1989, customers are being involved in the prices they are being charged."

"Approving of the process, which I do, does not imply that I will sign up to the numbers in these market plans. I will need to examine them carefully in the light of comments from customers."

"Customers must come first. To tell them that water is good value may be true, but they do not want to see their disposable income squeezed. Prices are more uncomfortable for customers when starting from a high base."

"The South West is a prime example. The recent increases in water bills have unleashed a political storm. There is a

demand that others outside the region should contribute to the costs. But that appeal may look rather different as the costs of higher standards spread to other areas."

"We should put regulatory pressure on companies to deliver their products cheaply by cost cutting, by innovative solutions, by lower margins - in short, by simulating the pressures of a competitive market."

"I also want to see downward convergence of prices. There has always been a significant spread of prices between companies. The divergences could increase further, but we should put the onus on companies to demonstrate that their costs are inevitably high rather than relying only on regulatory economics."

Mr Byatt was speaking at a conference on regulatory reform yesterday. He said regulators must be accountable. Customers came top of his list, they are consuming an essential commodity that many cannot obtain from alternative sources.

He said he felt accountable to government, to ensure national policy is carried out, to the water companies, to ensure they can finance their statutory duties, and to shareholders and creditors, because they provide an essential ingredient, capital, and must be assured of a reasonable rate of return.

Mr Byatt's comments come midway through the water company annual results reporting season. Severn Trent shares fell 13p to 483p yesterday after the company reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £274 million to £270.1 million for the year to end-March. The previous year, however, included an £8.6 million exceptional gain.

The total dividend for the year rises 9.3 per cent to 22.1p a share.

share out of earnings down from 70.6p to 69.9p. Counting the 1991-2 exceptional item as an extraordinary, as reported at the time, earnings were 68.2p in the previous year.

Operating profits from water rose 15.3 per cent to £293 million and Severn says cost increases were contained to 1.5 per cent in spite of improvements in quality and customer service.

Waste management operating profits rose from £11 million to £12 million in what John Bellak, the chairman, described as difficult market conditions. Sales rose from £89.4 million to £93.7 million.

Interest charges, however, soared to £28.9 million from £4.3 million receivable in the previous year.

Southern Water raised profits before tax from £115.1 million to £119.2 million in the year to end-March. The total dividend for the year rises by 9.2 per cent from 19.5p to 21.3p out of earnings up from 64.2p to 66.3p. Leaving aside an exceptional item in the previous year, earnings rose from 60.5p to 66.3p.

The level of net cash in Southern's balance sheet rose from £1.7 million to £25.5 million.

Profits at the regulated water business rose from £99.1 million to £111 million. Non-regulated business rose from £7 million to £8.4 million on sales of £77 million. Southern says around £20 million of these sales were outside the company. The group is keen to build up its engineering design, systems technology, environmental assessment, waste management and property. The company is making a virtue out of making no sudden diversification moves and of not operating in far flung corners of the world. The shares fell 4p to 505p.

Tempus, page 29

Dawson benefits from sterling fall

By Our City Staff



Fashioning profits: Philip Kemp, left, Sir Ronald Miller and Nick Kuenssberg

DAWSON International, the knitwear and consumer products group whose brands include Pringle and Ballantyne, benefited from the devaluation of the pound last year. The company, which raises 75 per cent of turnover overseas, estimates that a third of its UK business is with tourists visiting Britain.

Yesterday the company reported pre-tax profits 38 per cent higher at £32.1 million for the year to March 27, compared with £23.2 million in the previous year. Despite the increase, Sir Ronald Miller, chairman, gave warning that the company's markets were becoming more difficult and complex.

Sir Ronald said the improvement in trading he reported a year ago had rapidly evaporated as recession regained its grip on the UK and gained momentum in the important continental European and Japanese markets. Earnings rose to 13.3p per share from 7.3p. The total dividend payout is held at 9p. The company said a shift in profits from the first to the second half of the financial year was likely to continue, reflecting retailers' shorter delivery cycles. Dawson has followed new accounting guidelines in presenting latest figures, restating the comparisons from the previous 12 months. Under old procedures, profits would have been just 6 per cent ahead. Turnover rose to £431.7 million from £414.9 million. Interest charges eased to £5 million from £5.5 million.

Tempus, page 29

Klößner on course for return to profit

By Colin NARBROUGH

KLOCKNER-WERKE, the German steel and engineering group forced to seek court protection from its creditors last December, will be back on course for a profit later this year and aims to start paying a dividend again in 1995, Hans Christoph von Rohr, the management board chairman, said.

He was addressing the annual shareholders meeting in Duisburg yesterday only days after final district court approval was given for the restructuring plan for the company's DM2.7 billion debts. The rescheduling deal cuts the burden by DM1.4 billion.

Herr von Rohr said he expects all divisions, including steel, to be back in the black in the financial year starting in October. Klößner expects to show a loss of about DM30 million on its troubled steel operations for the current financial year, and does not expect its engineering and plastic divisions to continue favourably after a profitable first half. In 1991-2, the group net loss was DM560 million. The company last paid a dividend on its 1989-90 results.

The chairman attributed much of his optimism about a bounce-back to the successful debt restructuring under the German equivalent of America's Chapter 11, which relieved pressure decisively on its steel operations at a time of great difficulties across the European steel industry.

S Wales Electricity clears debt

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

SOUTH Wales Electricity has become the first of the 12 power distributors in England and Wales to wipe out the debts that were painfully injected by the government ahead of the industry's privatisation in late 1990.

Final results from South Wales showed cash balances at the end-March financial year end of £9.8 million, against debts of £10 million a year previously. David Jones, the chief executive, said the group would stay in a similar net cash position for the next two years, at least until the forthcoming regulatory review of the core distribution business.

The debts were wiped out by South Wales's strong cash flow over the year. Pre-tax profits went ahead from £72.9 million to £87 million. The £9.1 million costs associated with the exit from the loss-making retail business were not repeated, which helped.

South Wales is following the other two distributors who have reported this week with hefty dividend increases. A final of 15.7p makes a total increased by 14.9 per cent to 22.3p, which will cost the company an extra £2.9 million.

Chloride continues batteries disposal

By Carl Mortimer

CHLORIDE, the electronics group headed by Ray Horrocks, wants to sell its African batteries business, which made profits of £2.7 million in the year to end-March, and reinvest the money in electronics, which made losses of £2.3 million.

The pre-tax loss for the year was up from £1.4 million to £1.5 million, while sales, affected by reduced demand in the recession, fell £10 million to £100 million. There is again no dividend.

Chloride has been steadily divesting itself of its batteries operations with the sale of the core business in 1991, to Hawker Siddeley for £43 million, while last year Chloride

disposed of its interest in the sodium sulphur battery project. The sale of the African business is expected to fetch £30 million. Keith Hodgkinson, chief executive of Chloride, said that the strategy is to focus on the core businesses, which comprise emergency lighting, uninterruptible power supplies and power conversion units. Margins will improve through further efficiencies and cost control, he said.

Mr Hodgkinson said that the proceeds of the sale would be reinvested in businesses that would generate better quality earnings. Chloride's African operations, based in Egypt, Zimbabwe and Kenya, would be replaced by electronics profits in the UK, America and Europe. "We will also benefit from the use of accumulated tax losses," he said.

Chloride's emergency lighting business generated about £20 million of the £74 million electronics turnover. Chloride expects to benefit from EC rules requiring higher standards and regular servicing of emergency lighting. Uninterrupted power supplies produced sales of £40 million; the business provides power units that ensure continuous supply to computers in the event of power cuts as well as cleaner power for on-line systems.



Horrocks: selling

Regulator tells British Gas chiefs to stop bleating

By a Correspondent

BRITISH Gas was told yesterday to stop "bleating" about loss of profits under pressure from Ofgas, the industry watchdog, while also professing pleasure in cutting prices and improving services.

The rebuke came from Sir James McKinnon, director-general of gas supply, who was defending the way Ofgas regulates the industry.

In March, when Ofgas proposed splitting British Gas into up to 17 separate companies, Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, accused it of irresponsibility. He said: "We expect a new blast from Ofgas every week."

Sir James said: "Critics have characterised Ofgas as being prone to take action in a whimsical and irresponsible manner. No evidence has been

provided in support of this contention. On the contrary, I and my Ofgas colleagues have been both vigorous and rigorous in fulfilling our duties."


As a result, domestic gas prices were down 20 per cent in real terms, with much higher service levels, he said. A quarter of industrial customers enjoyed reduced energy costs. "Put another way, regulation is working as intended," he said at the Regulatory Reform Conference in London.

"If it's hurting, then the regulator should examine its own conscience before encouraging people to point accusatory fingers at the regulator. Instead of bleating about loss of profitability due to regulatory pressures, it should get its act together and then it could earn more money," British

Gas, he said, had been complaining of being the "innocent victim" of interaction between Ofgas and the Office of Fair Trading.

Addressing the conference, Mr Brown called for new guidelines to cater for the "dramatic" increase in competition now taking place. A fair balance needed to be struck between generating profit on the one hand and taking responsibility for crucial obligations on the other, he said.

Utilities should be able to trigger a reference to the monopolies commission if there was a serious case of disagreement with the regulator. He said there was a case for diluting the power of individual regulators by involving more than one regulator in key decisions.



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No such word as redundancy in Japanese social contract

The egalitarianism found in Japanese companies, and so lacking in the West, is surviving another downturn, writes Joanna Pitman

Japan's political and economic leaders have begun, albeit tentatively, to hint that the Japanese economy might just be about to emerge from its worst downturn since the second world war. Japan's self-styled recession, however, was only ever relative. Economic growth slowed to 1.5 per cent last year, while unemployment rose to 2.2 per cent. Crowds thronging the exclusive shopping grounds of Ginza in Tokyo ceased to resemble those of a Christmas eve on Oxford Street every day of the week, though still did at weekends. Car manufacturers had a disastrous year — Toyota made pre-tax profits of just ¥376 billion (£22 billion).

Few companies have been able to weather the recession as comfortably as Toyota, which retained its number one ranking in terms of profits for the last fiscal year. A profits squeeze resulting from shrinking consumer demand has forced many firms to close plants to make up for overcapacity bred during the inflationary and expansionist latter half of the 1980s, when domestic credit expanded rapidly, pushing asset prices up to two or three times their realistic value.

After several years of turmoil, Japan's bubble is well and truly deflated, and the nation's normally robust levels of economic growth (which averaged 4.3 per cent between 1974 and 1989) have levelled out in the 1 to 2 per cent range. While Japan's slowdown has been nothing like the recession in Britain, it has shocked corporate Japan. Lessons have been drawn from over-extension during the boom years and ruthless cost-cutting measures have been introduced. Management has been forced to alter employee structures and implement reviews of the hallowed concept of lifetime employment, the potent social contract perceived to bind the loyalty of employees to their companies.

But just as Japan's definition of recession is quite different from Britain's, Japan's interpretation of the word redundancy is likewise all but unrecognisable to foreign ears. "Swinging job cuts", the Japanese (and some of the foreign) press would have us believe, are sweeping through corporate Japan. Foreign words for unfamiliar foreign phenomena, such as *ray-off* (lay off) and *re-structure* (restructuring), have peppered Japanese economic reports all year. But the reality is quite different from what the English terms imply.

When Nissan Motors announced in February that it planned to close its car assembly plant in Zama, southwest of Tokyo by 1995, the news attracted enormous attention because Zama had once been the company's flagship assembly line. Moreover, the closure involved Japan's seemingly inviolable car industry.

Nissan's closure plans, dramatic as they may sound, do not anticipate any



Salary swing: some staff are paid to stay away from work, the cost of their leisure being less than job cuts

job losses at all and are illustrative of the way in which corporate Japan is going about rationalising costs. Nissan has offered transfers for 2,500 workers to two other Nissan plants in Tokyo and in the southern island of Kyushu. The remaining 1,500 will continue to work in Zama in administration, distribution, design and specialist part manufacture. Nissan plans to reduce its 48,000 workforce by 5,000 by 1996, mainly through restricting recruitment and through natural wastage.

Corporate Japan has been through boom and bust cycles before and has emerged with its patterns of paternalistic labour relations and lifetime employment more or less intact. The 1990s recession seems to be no exception — at least for large-sized companies. The case of Nissan's Steel demonstrates the gravity still associated with unavoidable lay-offs in Japan and the extent to which a company will go to avoid it. When Nissan Steel, the world's largest steelmaker, closed two blast furnaces in the early 1980s in the Tohoku town of Kamaishi, the company had been employing one in every four local workers and the shutdown threatened to turn the isolated community into a ghost town. Nissan Steel had already kept the steelworks operating long after it had become unprofitable and closed it only gradually, transferring workers to other Nissan Steel plants. When it could no longer transfer workers, the company turned to create new businesses in Kamaishi to employ former steel workers. A

combination of government subsidies, industrial promotion plans and the imaginations of Nissan Steel managers created new jobs in enterprises ranging from growing mushrooms to office furniture making. Today, those businesses are struggling but meet their objective: they employ 700 former steel workers.

TDK, the magnetic tapes manufacturer, battered by a slump in the domestic market, decided to cut costs by offering middle managers they were to let go the option to continue on full salary payments on the condition that they did not come into work any more. According to TDK's theory, savings made in office overheads, entertainment expenses, bonuses, allowances related to housing, family education or commuting costs and fringe benefits would exceed the potential

cutting salaries and would be sufficient to tide the company over the slump while avoiding orthodox job cuts. Targeted workers were told they would be free to find another job in a different sector or, if they wished, simply to play golf all day. At Hitachi, middle managers are encouraged to take three or four extra working days off each month at 90 per cent salary. In return for such job security and paternalism, Japanese workers are expected to devote considerably more of their personal lives to their companies than would be expected of workers in Europe.

From the moment they join, graduates must be prepared to be inducted with the spirit of the company, to wear its badge with pride in their suit lapels, to await patiently the significant salary increases and other benefits that come with age rather than merit, to suppress their individuality for the sake of being a good "team player". This dedication and loyalty does not necessarily equate with satisfaction — international comparisons of worker attitudes seldom show the Japanese worker as being particularly happy. Nor is it simply a cultural product, for the reluctance of the Japanese to indulge in job-hopping is in large part linked to the lure of security and a wage system that brings growing benefits with length of service.

Corporate Japan's version of the social contract is able to weather both economic boom and bust because its roots are bound in an egalitarianism that appears to be missing in many large western companies. Even in times of high growth and high profits, Japan's most senior executives seldom earn more than six or seven times the salary of their new recruits. In the company cafeteria, all employees eat together and when the economy takes a tumble, senior executives even volunteer for salary cuts. At Clarion, the karaoke machine maker, the president has sacrificed his entire salary until his company pulls out of the recession.

As a country with scant natural resources and dependent for much of its wealth on value-added exports, Japan values loyal and able workers. If employers were to begin sacking workers at the first signs of trouble, the social contract would be undermined and long-term prosperity put in jeopardy, corporate Japan will go out of its way to avoid the *ray-off*, as westerners understand it.

Japanese workers are expected to devote more of their personal lives to their companies than Europeans

Dividing water courses

THE results from Severn Trent and Southern Water practically round off the water results season and provided the market with a revealing contrast. Both companies have highly regarded core businesses with decent compliance and performance records. Judicious cost restraint allowed both businesses to record double digit growth in operating profits from their water businesses, with Severn Trent showing the edge with a 15 per cent increase against 12 per cent from Southern.

The two companies differ only in diversification policies. Severn Trent's attempts to broaden out have been more disastrous than most ever since its ill-advised bid for Caird. Now it is saddled with Biffa which it bought for £212 million and made an estimated loss of £13 million after financing costs last year. As a result, Severn has earned the dubious honour

of becoming the first water company to suffer a fall in earnings. The competition in the waste industry suggests Biffa is unlikely to make a real return for years.

Southern has spent less than £10 million on acquisitions since privatisation and has concentrated on expanding its modest non-core activities organically. The result is that the company is likely to end next year with little gearing, while debts at Severn Trent will be more than £600 million.

Water shares have performed miserably in the past two months as the market has seen the poor performance of non-core activities and the effect rising debts will have on dividend growth. The sector has risen from a 15 per cent yield premium to more than 40 per cent. While other industries offer recovery potential, the shares are unlikely to recover fast.

Regalian

THE £84 million loss reported by Regalian may look traumatic, but it is evidence that the company has joined the select ranks of developers to survive the property crash.

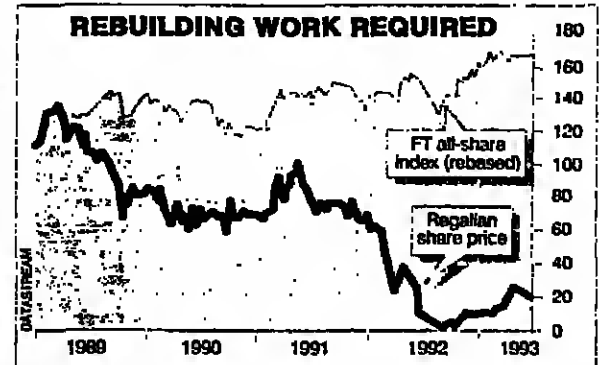
The figures are freely described by David Goldstone, the chairman, as a deck-clearing exercise and should ensure Regalian receives an unqualified audit. Regalian desperately needs its auditors approval since it has recently started courting joint venture partners as a first step towards recovery.

Regalian's need for outside finance is unmistakable. The company is heading for another loss in the current year as it sells out its remaining flats at its ill-fated Kensington Palace Gardens and Free Trade Wharf developments. It needs to begin new projects to generate the reve-

nue to cover overheads, but does not have the resources to finance them. Even though the company has reduced net debt from £130 million in March 1992 to £42 million today, it still has gearing of 98 per cent, and the banks will hardly lend it another brass farthing.

So far, the group has talked to one South-East

Asian investor and identified a residential project which it will manage and share in the profits. With this and others Regalian can rebuild its reserves until it has the strength to stand on its own again. The shares have risen almost tenfold from their 2p low, but at 19.5p they are still speculative with little chance of a dividend until 1994.



Dawson

ANALYSING Dawson's results is rather like admiring a cashmere sweater only to find that it is made of polyester. The 6 per cent rise (on a pre-FRS3 basis) in profit masks a disappointing performance from the consumer products division, where operating profit fell 30 per cent.

Much of this decline is due to American retailers, who have been quick to pass the costs of an aggressive price war on to suppliers. Dawson has also been forced to hold more stock on behalf of the retailers, resulting in a £20 million increase in working capital.

The group is not alone in its suffering in America, but the management has compounded the difficulties. The multimillion pound losses at West Floce were largely caused by the ill-fated launch of a screenprint brand, which threw the production and delivery of other customer orders into disarray. West Floce has since terminated its relationship with K-Mart, formerly one of its biggest customers, and is unlikely to return to profit this year. A restructuring of

the American operations later this year could be on the cards. With the company's other major markets such as Japan, Italy and France in decline, the prospective earnings multiple of more than 16 looks full.

Devro

SAUSAGES often contain more filler than meat. Fortunately the reverse is true of Devro, the world's leading sausage skin manufacturer, which comes to the market later this month.

Devro has market leadership in an industry with high entry barriers. Given the large fixed costs of the business, Devro, as the biggest player, also has the advantage of being one of the lowest cost producers. It is also highly cash-generative, throwing off £25 million of cash in 1992 from operating profit of £22 million.

Devro has no shortage of uses for this cash. The penetration of edible collagen casings outside Britain is very low, providing excellent growth opportunities. While dominating the small diameter sausage casings market,

the group is looking to build presence in the larger diameter sector. On a prospective p/e ratio of 13 times and a 4 per cent yield, the issue pricing looks reasonable.

Hanson

NOW institutional shareholders have discovered they can bend the will of the mightiest company in the land, the power might go to their heads. Hanson's U-turn on next week's extraordinary meeting shows that large institutions have been shaken out of their lethargy and are playing a far more active part in company affairs since the recession.

All shareholders should welcome this, since it will act as a break on inevitable corporate excesses as the recovery takes shape. The affair also shows Hanson in a good light. The company has become far more responsive to public and City opinion since its bruising public relations battle with ICI. Its figures are far more informative, the management less imposing. Whether this will one day translate into renewed financial vigour is yet to be seen.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Olof's guide to D-Day

WITH the fiftieth anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy less than a year away, a merchant bank financial controller has turned author for the first time and compiled a self-drive guide to the battle area. Brian Olof of Barings, was propelled into action when a colleague, bound for Normandy with his teenage sons, was unable to lay his hands on an easy-to-follow guide. In a military-style endeavour, Olof decided to write, publish and distribute one himself. Now, nine months later, *D-Day and the Liberation of Normandy 1944* has been sold to military museum bookshops, to F&O European ferries for their on-board kiosks and to various booksellers. "I am amazed that no one has thought before of producing a guide that leaves out all the complex military detail," says Olof. "Most tourists just want to find the interesting sites as easily as possible and read a simple story of what happened where as they drive around." The book includes colour maps for a dozen tours and features photographs of 1944 scenes that can still be seen today.

Out of the woods

NORWEGIANS may be hopeless when it comes to the Eurovision song contest, but they have made it out of the economic woods, judging by the latest central bank forecast of 1.2 per cent growth this year and 2.3 per cent next. While Kenneth Clarke, our new

Chancellor, puts on a brave face about the £1 billion he has to raise each week to cover the budget deficit, his counterpart in Oslo can look forward to "large and increasing current account surpluses" and repayment of net foreign debt by early 1995. Norway's central government finances are in an even more enviable state, with a net asset position equivalent to 28 per cent of the gross domestic product. The Norwegian central bank is, meanwhile, looking for a new governor to replace Hermod Skarnland, a mere 68, who this week asked to retire early.

On your bike

EVERY man and his dog appears to be entering this week-end's annual London to Brighton Bike Ride. Gerry Asher, head of corporate finance at KPMG Peat Marwick, will be setting the pace among 27,000 riders who set out from Clapham Common

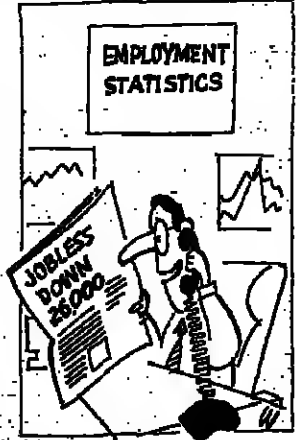
on Sunday, but faces stiff competition from Yamaha, the Japanese securities house. Yamaha has entered what is believed to be the biggest City team — over 60 riders — for the third year running, and has clocked up enough miles to go to Tokyo. Nick Griffiths, US bond trader and team captain, hopes to beat last year's team total of £4,500 raised for the British Heart Foundation. KPMG raised £4,000 last year. The riders will eat more than 100,000 sandwiches, drink 50,000 cans of fruit juice and pedal the equivalent of 15 million miles — or 63 times around the world.

BUSINESSMEN travelling to scandal-ridden Italy have found that the expression *VIP* has taken on a new meaning. Local ways say it stands for "Vediamoci in prigione" — or "See you in prison".

Out of favour

THE Philippines, that haven of good-natured democracy, is threatening to expel the International Monetary Fund's resident representative for publicly criticising Manila's economic policies. Christopher Browne fell foul of officials after accusing them of doing nothing to attract foreign investors. A spokesman for President Fidel Ramos said it was possible that Browne would be declared *persona non grata* so that "he can get out of this country as fast as he can". Talks for a new economic programme for the Philippines have been stalled since April because of the country's failure to meet IMF targets.

JON ASHWORTH



"We could bring the figures even lower if we took on a few hundred more staff"

DTI's commitment is welcome

From the Director, Manufacturing Industries, Confederation of British Industry
Sir, Your report (June 17) of the CBI's evidence to the Commons trade and industry select committee gave a partial view of the CBI's attitude to the DTI's performance as a sponsor of trade and industry. Yes, we did say that many of the major decisions affecting the competitiveness of UK industry are outside the direct control of the DTI. And we did say that there was a need for a greater understanding of the importance of an internationally competitive manufacturing base in certain other government departments, not least the Treasury.

But we also very much welcomed the much greater commitment to manufactur-

ing industry within the DTI and the changes which have been introduced since Michael Heseltine's arrival, even though it is still too early to offer conclusive judgments on the DTI's performance. We also welcomed the positive approach set out by the Chancellor in his speech at Guildhall on Tuesday night and his personal commitment to industry and commerce.

What we are hoping for now is that the government will set out what it sees as its role in promoting a healthy supply side. Publication of the DTI's own competitiveness report would be a good start. Yours faithfully, A. E. SCOTT, Director of Manufacturing Industries, CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

Energizer battery is lighting the way

From the Marketing Director of Ever Ready Limited
Sir, Contrary to Monday's diary piece, I am pleased to report that Ever Ready is doing rather well with its new Energizer battery. Having already topped Duracell from the number 1 position in the US, the heat is on over here and your research highlighting the fact that only one of the main distribution chains even knew about Energizer is wrong. Sainsbury, Gateway, Safeway, Halfords and Woolworths are just some of the retailers who have already taken up the Energizer opportunity. Yours faithfully, MARTIN BURCH, Marketing Director, Ever Ready Limited, 93 Burtleigh Gardens, NI4.

Share certificates lack collectability

From Mr D. G. Raby
Sir, Once upon a not very long time ago, companies emblazoned their share certificates with scrolls and jolly decorations illustrating their activities and importance. The company's image was greatly enhanced. If it later went bust then, at least, the grieving shareholder had something attractive to hang on the wall or be sought after by scrippophiles. Is there some deep significance in the fact that companies nowadays feel that something drab, utilitarian and unimaginative is appropriate to signify part ownership? Yours, D. G. RABY, The Little House, Elm Grove Road, Cobham, Surrey.

BRITISH COAL CORPORATION Licensing of Closed Collieries

British Coal invites offers for licensing the working of coal and the use of associated facilities at each of the collieries named below. Decisions by British Coal to grant a licence in respect of each such colliery will be made on a colliery by colliery basis and separate offers are invited. Select proposals for non-mining uses will also be given due consideration. The collieries for which offers are invited are Clipton Colliery, near Mansfield; Bevercotes Colliery, near Retford; Markham Main Colliery, Amthorpe, near Doncaster; Rossington Colliery, Rossington, Doncaster and Betws Colliery, Ammanford, Dyfed. Expressions of interest must be received by 2 July 1993 either in writing to:

British Coal Corporation, Licensing of Closed Collieries, Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Notts NG16 3ER. Fax No: 0773 532709 or by telephone on the following numbers: Clipton Colliery 0773 532710 Bevercotes Colliery 0773 532710 Markham Main Colliery 0773 532711 Rossington Colliery 0773 532711 Betws Colliery 0773 532712

and subsequently confirmed in writing. British Coal reserves the right not to consider expressions of interest received after 2 July 1993. Parties who have expressed an interest in making an offer in respect of a particular colliery will be provided with a Preliminary Information Pack containing outline information on the colliery, an application form, a letter of underwriting and the terms of a £10,000 security deposit/bond, together with details of the licensing process and timetable. Detailed information on the relevant colliery and draft tender documentation will subsequently be provided to any party which satisfies the requirements specified in the Preliminary Information Pack, which include entering into the letter of underwriting and the provision of the security deposit/bond. The receipt of an offer will not create any obligation or commitment on the part of British Coal to enter into any negotiations or to grant a licence. Enquiries about the procedures set out in this advertisement should be made in writing to the above address or by telephone on the numbers listed opposite.



[illegible]

Small losses on the day

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 7. Dealings end today. Settlement day June 21. Forwarded bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. For adjustments are made when a stock is re-divided. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

DRAPERY STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

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LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

OILS, GAS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

UNDATED

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Company	Price	Net %	P/E
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5
100	99 1/2	Bank of America	100	-0.5	10.5

INFOTECH

Dr Hermann Hauser is making a comeback and his ideas could help Britain, says Jane Bird

Acorn man plants an oak tree

British innovators are well-known for dreaming up ingenious ideas and failing to exploit them commercially. In the early 1980s, companies such as Acorn and Sinclair were world leaders in home computers, yet both failed to fulfil their early promise. Sinclair was swallowed up by Amstrad, while Acorn had to be rescued by Olivetti.

Now Dr Hermann Hauser, co-founder of Acorn, is making a comeback with a company called EO that has developed a pen-based portable computer or "personal communicator".

It has no keyboard and there are no complicated instructions to learn. The idea is that it should be used as an electronic book. When switched on, a list of contents appears and the "page" wanted is selected by pointing at a part of the screen with an electronic pen.

This pen is also used to write information on the screen. As long as the characters are printed separately, the powerful software is able to recognise handwriting and convert it into computer text. This may need a little correction at first as the machine learns the operator's handwriting style. Handwritten notes and sketches and diagrams can also be stored as images.

The device can be plugged into a telephone socket to send and receive faxes or other communications. Users on the move can also plug it into a mobile telephone.

Later this month, around 30 machines are due to go on trial in Britain and the device is scheduled to go on sale in the autumn at around £2,000. In America, where the EO is already available, stocks are selling out, Dr Hauser claims. Early users are people who have a strong need for mobile computer

communications, such as those in financial services, engineers or sales people.

If this does succeed as a rare example of British innovation being successfully marketed, it could be a useful blueprint for others.

The solution, argues Dr Hauser, is to form a "strategic start-up" supported by powerful business partners. EO's shareholders include AT&T, the US telecoms giant, Matsushita of Japan, the world's largest consumer electronics company, and Marubeni, a global distribution and trading business.

Together they have stumped up "tens of millions of dollars" for EO — enough to give it sufficient funds for the several years it may take to become profitable. The advantage for those running EO is that they

have no need to trail around investors every few months trying to raise the next round of capital.

Mr Hauser, who is chairman of EO Europe, says that the problem for British companies is that they do not think on a global scale from the outset and recognise where they have a lead. "Looking back at Acorn, we missed a huge opportunity. At the time, we knew we had our nose out in front with the best technology, but we did not really know how advanced we were compared with companies such as Apple and IBM. We were three or four years ahead."

Another mistake was not to use market leadership to set standards — the British success of Acorn's BBC Micro as a home and educational machine might have been repeated around the world with a different strategy.

Equally, parts of the technology could have been more widely exploited. For example the BBC Micro's built-in networking system was, for a short period, much in



Dr Hermann Hauser, co-founder of Acorn, with his pen-based personal communicator

demand by other manufacturers but Acorn refused to release it.

"Acorn could be a £5 billion to £10 billion company today if we had known then what we know now," Dr Hauser says. "We could have set a worldwide standard with the right partners but it never occurred to us. It was not an issue and it was never raised at board meetings."

This time round Dr Hauser was determined to sign up some loyal big brothers from the beginning. He visited every company that might want to get involved, including Sun, Hewlett Packard, Apple, Philips and Olivetti. In the end AT&T and Matsushita were deemed best because they were big in two key aspects of the business — communications and consumer electronics.

For their partners the alliance offers several advantages, Dr Hauser says. Large companies are notoriously bad at innovation. "They cannot do start-ups. They have tried in the past and failed."

Small, nimble teams tend to be far more enthusiastic and focused while strategic start-ups are also much simpler and more straight-

forward than joint ventures. They are more frugal than in-house teams, giving the partners access to innovation at a relatively low price. But not all EO's shareholders belong to the partners — a substantial amount is still with the employees. The aim is to motivate individuals with the prospect of rich rewards if the venture succeeds. At Microsoft, for example, many of the founding staff are now millionaires. As Dr Hauser says: "It means we can put ten thousand volts across the team to make them jump through hoops."

Although Dr Hauser is based in Cambridge, EO's headquarters is in California's Silicon Valley where two thirds of its 100 staff are employed. The reason for this is the much larger domestic market in the United States which is believed to be more receptive to new high-tech products. "In this market it is not feasible to produce something solely for Britain," Dr Hauser says.

EO also has venture funding from Kleiner Perkins, a venture

capital firm based in Palo Alto, California, after having failed to attract British investment. Dr Hauser says he visited many British venture capitalists in the early days. "They thought it was one of the best business plans they had ever seen, but they said it was too risky," he says.

Cambridge, in particular, has suffered heavily from the backlash against technology funding. "It was over-hyped in the 1980s when it lacked marketing expertise and links with the rest of the world," says Dr Hauser.

"But all those things are getting much better as people have got things wrong, gained experience and tried again. There is a whole undergrowth of expertise now in place and Cambridge is well-placed to become one of the premier high-tech areas in Europe."

When it comes to raising funds, he is almost messianic in his praise of the strategic start-up. "It could be the template of a new life form for British companies of the future," he says.

'It could be the template for the future'

Cordless phones get in a twist

Portable handsets are proving awkward for users and makers alike

Cordless telephones are beginning to arrive in the office. The problem is, office workers do not know how to use them, according to the makers. Like their domestic equivalent, cordless office telephones enable people to make or receive calls anywhere in an office, warehouse or on a building site.

Tony Warwick, director of European cordless systems for Motorola, one of the biggest makers of digital cordless telephones, says: "Typically, when cordless phones first arrive, the users tend to leave them on their desks. Then they come roaring back at full speed to the office when the phone rings."

But once office workers have got used to the cordless culture, they will not do without it, says David Wright, a marketing manager for GPT, one of the first in the cordless office system market, with a system based on the CT2 standard used for domestic digital cordless telephones and the Rabbit telepoint system.

"About 70 per cent of calls to offices do not get through first time," he says. "Cordless telephones can reduce that dramatically and this can be particularly important simply from a customer-service point of view, as no salesman wants to be unavailable to a buyer."

Availability is particularly important for small businesses, where management tend to be wandering round the premises more than in big corporations. Small businesses are also keen on the secondary benefit of answering calls as they come in rather than returning them — on their telephone bill.

GPT's system can handle about 100 cordless telephones on

one site. Add-on systems for up to 500 cordless telephones are on the way. Earlier this month, BT announced a cordless system, developed by Northern Telecom and using CT2 technology.

One problem, however, is a standards dispute that could split the market. First on the scene was CT2, developed in Britain by the radio communications sector, to try and move into the telephony market. The traditional pabx (company switchboard) manufacturers have replied with DECT, which is used in the Ericsson system due to go on sale shortly.

The DECT systems are still



On trial: a fireman tests a portable

not fully agreed, making it doubtful that handsets from one manufacturer will be usable on other systems. The result will probably be that domestic and small business markets will be dominated by CT2 and large corporate systems by DECT.

Non-compatibility between systems means that many office workers who might have benefited from a pocket handset that they could also use at home and while travelling will probably find that they are unable to take advantage of it outside the office.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

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Your own home-concert box

Following the introduction of music systems over cable television networks in the United States, the concept of the so-called "armchair record store" is now being looked at for Europe.

Digital Music Express (DMX) is a 24-hour service which offers American users 30 channels of compact-disc quality music. The music channels include everything from classical to pop and jazz, and there are no announcements or commercials. Channels are selected with a large remote-control handset which displays the artist and record-label information of the current track playing on a liquid crystal display screen.

DMX was founded in 1986 by the American company International Cablecasting Technologies (ICT), and is now available to more than 10 million homes in the US. The DMX service, which is expected to cost around £10 per month when it arrives in Britain, will initially be tested in the Bristol area by Avon Cable. Satellite company BSKyB is also planning to offer the service.

Although subscribers to DMX will not be able to select individual musical tracks, opponents in the music industry are worried that it will greatly reduce the number of people buying CDs and tapes.

Not surprisingly, ICT refuses these charges. "We believe DMX will encourage sales rather than reduce them," argues Richard Cohen, the managing director of ICT's European division. "If people like a particular track, they will use the information supplied on the handset to go out and buy records. Similar arguments were used by the film companies about video cassettes and pay-TV, but they have not reduced the sales of cinema tickets."

Mr Cohen points out that the record companies Sony and Warner are supporting a rival cable music system in America and that DMX is designed to discourage home taping. "It is important to be sympathetic to the music industry. For that reason we do not make announcements or publish a programming guide and nor do we play a complete album."

TV graced by CD-quality music

number of steps, one of which involves adding an inaudible code to the music. The code would contain details of the artist and record company which would be automatically logged for royalty distribution.

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Spreading the word — by fax

David Hewson
explains how this
fast-changing
system offers
many benefits

Ten years ago hardly anyone had heard of the fax machine. Today it is everyone's tool for businesses throughout the world, and set to invade the home. Industry analysts predict that there will be 100 million fax machines in operation in America alone by the year 2000, and that a third of all phone lines will be connected to a fax device.

Fax is one of the most astonishing technology successes of the last decade, but frequently one of the most infuriating too. Everyone has suffered from the vanishing fax mystery, that slippery communication that always eludes the plaintive cry: "But I faxed it to you days ago."

Fax phone number directories are notoriously inaccurate and incomplete, partly because of the fear of the dread junk fax snowstorm that may eat its way through your expensive box of thermal paper if your number does become public.

The trouble is that fax may be clever, but it isn't smart. A fax machine is essentially a computer that performs only three functions — it scans outgoing documents, prints incoming ones, and converts both into a common electronic "picture" that it can exchange with other fax machines over the phone.

Electronic-mail systems through modems are much more capable, and usually faster, but they suffer from incompatibilities, are difficult to set up and are relatively uncommon in most businesses.

Fax, on the other hand, is everywhere. For all its shortcomings, it has become the international electronic mail standard by default, mainly because all you have to do is take it out of the box and plug it in.

The days of the fax as a dumb distributor of thermal sheets are numbered, however. Mainstream fax manufacturers are increasingly concerned about competition from alternative paperless fax through modems attached to office or notebook PCs.

A fax modem is already a popular piece of equipment for notebook users — some 50 per cent of Apple's Powerbooks are thought to be used in conjunction with one. Virtually all fax modems can be used for conventional electronic communications too, but the most popular use for them is for fax. Properly equipped and set up, the travelling executive can send or receive faxes in a hotel bedroom



Heavenly system: Father Gerard Quigley sends out reports and other diocesan communications from the keyboard of his home PC

almost anywhere in the world without ever having to print out a piece of paper.

New "fax bank" services mean that he or she can even be sent faxes while on the move. The fax is sent to an electronic mail fax bank, stored temporarily and then downloaded by the recipient later by phoning the fax bank and giving a password.

Sales of fax modems and software are growing fast in Europe, according to the American company Delrina, which produces one of the most popular software packages, Winfax. One of the reasons is price — modems are tumbling in cost and sophisticated software is relatively cheap too.

For a list price of £99, Delrina's top-range package can send and receive faxes, comes with 100 ready-designed fax sheets, many of them with cartoons by a leading American artist, and will even scan incoming faxes using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) techniques to turn them into a word processing file automatically.

Like most fax packages, Winfax works in the background, sending, receiving and processing behind the scenes while the user works normally

on the PC using other applications during the process.

Those who have followed the fax modern path show few regrets, least of all for the costly boxes of thermal paper demanded by conventional fax machines.

Father Gerard Quigley, a Roman Catholic priest and teacher in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, has found his work transformed by the technology. He now sends out many reports and

'I couldn't go back to the old days when we typed out letters on a typewriter'

other diocesan communications using Winfax on his home PC.

He faxes the messages for off-peak phone time using Mercury, and a "phonebook" run by the software maintains his names and addresses. He says the results are cheaper and faster than sending letters and enable him to contact his distribution list of about 40 fax-owning parishioners more easily than ever before, without ever dialling a single phone number

or printing out a piece of paper.

"Most people still receive them on conventional fax machines, but I think they will eventually start moving to modems. I couldn't ever dream of going back to the old days when we typed out the letter on a typewriter and then had to feed it through the fax for everyone we wanted to send it to. It was a dreadful waste of time".

This summer, Delrina will release a new version of Winfax designed to work with the latest generation of DSP or digital signal processor modems.

Smart software and DSP promise to shake up fax and phone use, particularly for small businesses. They should finally do away with the need for separate lines for fax and voice calls. A DSP modem can distinguish between a voice phone call, a call from a fax, and signals from a touch-tone phone. The device is much more sophisticated than the present generation of "line-splitters" which can tell a fax from a voice call.

With DSP, the user can set up a complete voice and fax phone combination which will set as an answering and messaging system and allow callers to access information using the "press touch-tone button 3 for

more information" facility currently found only on very expensive switchboards.

Properly programmed, a DSP PC can answer calls, send faxes on request, record phone conversations and allow access to the faxes and voice messages on the system from outside the office. If the phone service allows, the software will also display the phone number of all callers to a line — even ones who do not leave a message.

For a small business, one PC, a DSP modem and a single phone line could offer a significantly more efficient replacement for an existing two-line system, answering machine, and fax for an investment of only a few hundred pounds. And it will still do all the work in the background, leaving the PC free to be used for other office tasks while it answers the phone.

Fax modems have their disadvantages. They can be difficult to set up and sometimes to use. The only way to fax paper items is to scan them into a desktop scanner attached to the PC. But for anyone who needs to fax reports to a variety of recipients the ease and speed with which messages can be dispatched direct from the screen are infectious.

Wanted: women

THE share of women students on computer-science courses has almost halved from a peak of 24 per cent in 1978. A project by the National Council for Education and Technology is now looking for sponsors to try and get more females into the field at an early age.

"Research from the United States and mainland Europe shows that girls there are pursuing information technology careers. We need to find out why their experiences are not similar in this country," says Margaret Bell, NCET's chief executive. Organisations interested in supporting the project can ring 0203 416994 for further information.

Deaf dialling

BT has introduced its first public telephones for the deaf. The systems, installed on a trial basis at King's Cross railway station, Heathrow Airport and four other sites, include a keyboard and a screen for text readout, but can also be used as a normal pay telephone.

Deaf users will be able to use the telephones to communicate with other text terminals over telephone lines.

BT also has a system called Typetalk in which a deaf caller using a text terminal is connected with an operator who can relay messages to and from hearing people with a regular telephone.

Virtually here

SEGALAND game centres, where punters drive virtual reality racing cars and grapple with flashier video games than they can get at home, are already a part of the Japanese landscape.

Japan's video game maker Sega is planning to open ten high-tech "game centres" in Europe and the America. A centre is planned for Bourne-mouth in July and a new north London shopping mall in August. An arcade in Las Vegas will follow in October.

Drop ban call

AT&T has asked the Clinton administration to remove most of the remaining Cold War era restrictions on exports of high-tech telecommunications equipment to China and the former Soviet Union.

The company argues such

controls are outdated and ineffective and that it is some foreign competitors, who are not subject to the export controls, who are gaining a huge advantage in sales of equipment such as advanced fibre-optic transmission technology.

Under cover

TELEWORKERS — those who use computers, faxes and other equipment to work from home — may be uninsured. Household insurers often exclude coverage for any property used for business purposes.

Recognising this new market, London-based Tolson Messenger has started a "home-office insurance plan". Premiums start at £120 a year.

I'm in charge

SOON, anyone with a computer will be able to govern America, at least in a computer simulation.

A company called 3D Games in California expects to release a video game this year



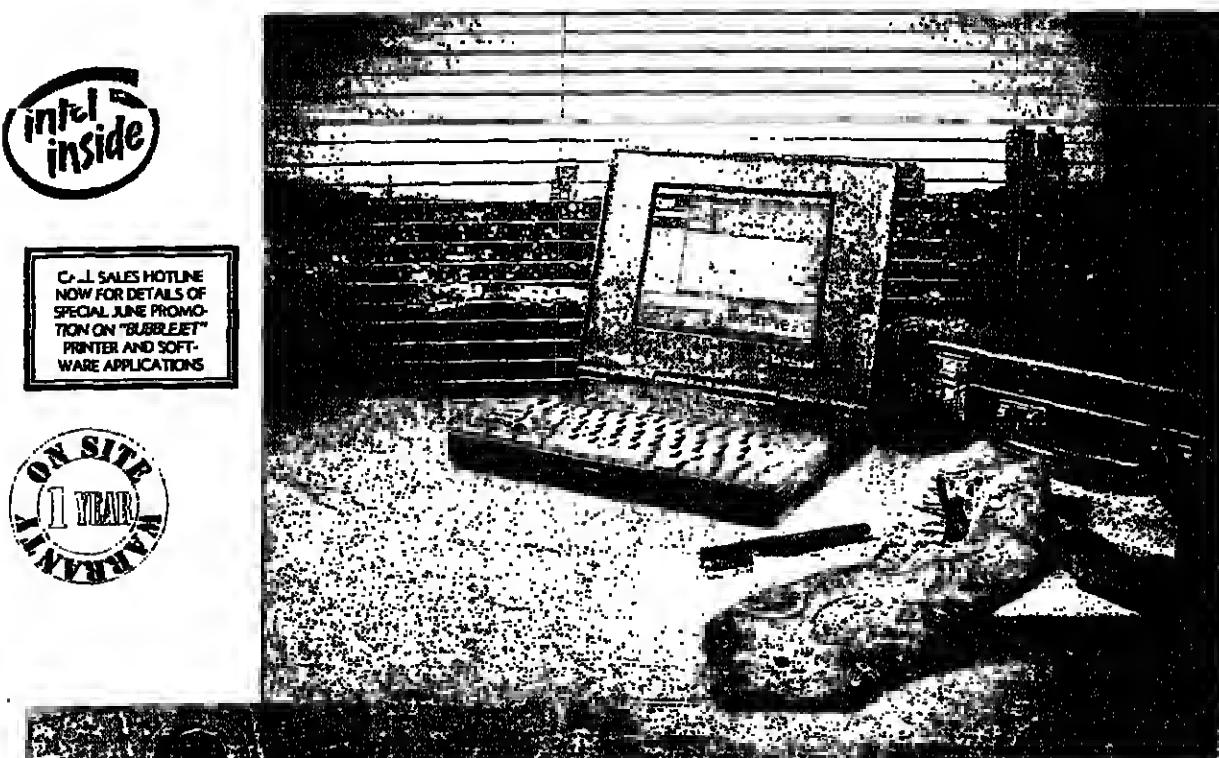
about the White House under President Bill Clinton.

The game, featuring news footage and sound bites, will allow players to control the picture, hear real Clinton dialogue, and pretend they are sitting in the Oval Office, running the country.

"We can make Bill laugh, we can make Bill cry," says 3D's president, Seaver Lasson.

Breaking ring

KAREL Van Miert, the EC competition commissioner, has said that national monopolies in telecommunications will be dissolved even at this month's meeting from states. Telephone calls in 11 EC nations are run by state monopolies with only Britain opening its market to allow some competition. The EC aims to end state telephone monopolies by 1998.



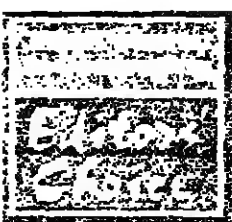
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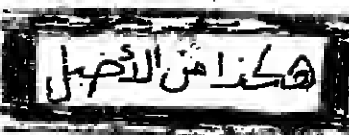
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Expert help in short supply

The huge numbers of PC users face a lack of troubleshooters to back the user-friendly revolution, reports David Guest

Despite ten years of optimistic flannel about "user-friendly" personal computers, the routine difficulties experienced by office computer users constitute one of the great growth areas in information technology (IT) job creation.

A report by the West London Training and Enterprise Council, for example, predicts that at least 1,000 extra jobs will be created in West London alone over the next three or four years just to provide the people needed to give technical help to computer users.

If the council's assertion that economic activity in their area is similar to that of the UK as a whole is correct, this would indicate that nationally the growing requirement for staff to support office computer users will generate more than 40,000 jobs within the next five years. Whether there will be sufficient people with the appropriate skills is another matter.

The growth of this sort of support function is following in the wake of the spread of PCs. Before the PC, few workers had access to a computer. Their occasional need for technical back-up could be easily predicted and handled by the data processing department, because they used nothing that the

DP specialists had not supplied themselves. But the widespread appearance of PCs on the desks of white-collar professionals, and the arrival of commercial programs to help with such work as financial planning, word processing or filing, have resulted in computer specialists having a new class of user to look after.

These support departments were not — and are still not — the only source of help, but in large companies they are generally supposed to be the first point of contact. "The IT department is a significant source of support in only a small minority of establishments, except in large organisations," the council notes. The role is one that IT departments seem to have fallen into.

"I don't believe it has happened by accident, but I don't believe it was quite by design either," says Meenu Vora, the council's executive director. "Maybe these departments didn't fully appreciate the pace at which the changes brought

about by end-user computing, would occur."

The report points out that the number of people active in the category of "user support" now considerably exceed the number in the traditional systems development area. "It is likely that many of the people now categorised as user support staff are systems development people by another name

Support staff needed for computer users could generate 40,000 jobs

while others are likely to be secretaries, clerks or administrators who have shown an interest or aptitude for information technology and have been assigned responsibility for supporting users."

This conclusion is supported by the evidence of the Reward Group's salary survey of IT professionals. Reward breaks its study down into 17 categories, by job title, only one

of which mentions support — the software support manager who is estimated to receive a median salary of £26,400.

The implication is that for many IT staff, supporting professional PC users is only part of the job.

It is certainly a growing part of the activity of in-house IT departments, but there are considerable doubts over the extent to which such departments are well equipped to deal with it.

As Michael Lurie, managing director of the executive recruitment agency Goodman Graham, says: "Internal DP people, typically don't have the client interaction skills and the problem is that it can affect their ability to build their careers. I would encourage people to seek out formal training wherever possible. Programmers and analysts should tell their bosses they need these skills to do their jobs better."

Ms Vora also thinks IT specialists are not necessarily the right raw material for end-user support. "The ideal person to provide user support is one who understands the

business," she says. "So the best candidates come from the user side." It is certainly true that many veteran PC users know more about PCs than the IT specialists know about the PC users' jobs.

Ms Vora adds that few organisations have taken a conscious decision about this area. "In many companies, end-user support just happens," she says.

Wherever support staff are drawn from, the role needs careful management. Research from KPMG Management Consulting hints at a situation running out of control.

The average annual cost of a workstation, PC or computer terminal, is only £216 when depreciation is taken into account. The formal provision of back-up from technical specialists adds £298 to this figure. But most of the help, advice and technical support end-users draw on actually comes from their peers — enthusiasts whom KPMG refers to as "workstation gurus".

It estimates that the real cost in the time of these professionals represents a hidden charge of over £5,000 per workstation each year.

The conclusion of the West London TEC's survey is that IT skills are in such short supply at all levels that it could even threaten Britain's economic recovery.



Meenu Vora: IT departments are not giving support by design

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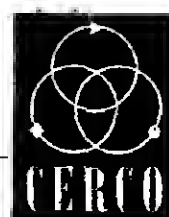
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مركز الامم



THEATRE page 36

Juliet and her Romeo
are innocents abroad in
the open-air production
in Regent's Park

ARTS

ROCK page 37

Jimmy Cauty, popping
up everywhere from
the Justified Ancients
of Mu Mu to KLF



SCULPTURE AT CHELSEA HARBOUR: Richard Cork on an attempt to marry modern and traditional

Airing their differences

Not so long ago, when modernists and traditionalists stared at each other, an event such as Chelsea Harbour Sculpture 93 would have been inconceivable. It is, after all, organised by the Royal Society of British Sculptors — a body once dedicated to shunning Epstein, Moore, Hepworth and all the other heretics who challenged hallowed notions about what sculpture should be. Now, as the century of experiment nears its end, the RBS has at last decided to accept some, at least, of the innovators it used to vilify. And they have reciprocated by accepting the invitation issued by the society's first woman president, Philomena Davidson Davis. Nearly 60 sculptors have installed work, often on the grand scale, throughout the buildings and outdoor spaces bordering the boat-filled marina.

The outcome, one of the largest open-air sculpture shows ever held in this country, adds up to a surprising act of rapprochement. In the age of post-modern pluralism, the lion of abstraction lies down with the lamb of representation. Right from the outset, a conciliatory spirit is announced by Glyn Williams's two colossal bronze hands bordering the approach road to the harbour. Although seemingly armour-plated, they gesture towards the entrance with a pensive, welcoming openness.

And Williams, hitherto a polemical advocate of figurative carving, finds his work placed near an aluminium abstract by Clement Meadmore. Coated in a gleaming black polyurethane finish, this anonymous presence looks like everyone's idea of a modern sculptural cliché.

Not that the figurative exhibits are automatically any better. Flanking the entrance to Chelsea Garden Market, Ivor Abraham's two bronze emblems of *Day and Night*. Their titles are, unfortunately, the only qualities they share with Michelangelo's carvings for the Medici Chapel in Florence. Although their backs are arched in an acrobatic flourish, they seem drained of any conviction.

Inside the triple-atrium market building, a stylistic free-for-all breaks out. But it fails to foster impressive results. Daniel Pontrean's boulder of coloured, concrete

supports a thin metal ladder curving up towards the glass roof. It looks merely whimsical, and Marcus Cornish's nearby *Breadth* succeeds only in looking fussy.

The danger with surveys as catholic as "Chelsea Harbour Sculpture 93" is that its contents cancel one another out. According to Davidson Davis, the event "was conceived as an open-minded and unprejudiced exhibition, that will show the enormous range of creativity, professional technique and media at work in sculpture today." But heterogeneity can

"The lion of abstraction lies down with the lamb of representation"

lead to visual mayhem without careful grouping. The second atrium in the Garden Market avoids the problem by concentrating on figurative works. Willi Soukop's winged *Green Woman*, an oddly decapitated head with green leaves in her hair, balances on two equally wistful figures and an owl. They could not be further removed from Michelangelo's *David* or Niki de Saint Phalle's *Nana au Serpent*, a bold and big-breasted blue lady. Sporting a multi-coloured bathing costume and cowering with a golden snake twined round her ample body, she is as outrageous as Soukop's carving is muted.

But somehow, the three sculptures coexist without jarring — unlike the works gathered in the third atrium. Here, James Butler's reclining green nude and Ralph Brown's grey sylph certainly

share a weakness for smooth, stick-finition. But they have nothing in common with Daniel Chadwick's *Magnified Water Droplet Trails*, a purple and orange mobile which dangles from the roof and relies far too heavily on Calder's pioneering experiments half a century ago.

The pieces outside, on the way down to Harbour Yard, are at least placed further apart. But they seem just as arbitrarily grouped. Kenneth Armitage's *Richmond Oak*, a strangely cartoonish attempt to simplify a tree in painted bronze, looks uneasy set near John Pappas's heavily academic *Torso* flexing its musculature on a plinth. Jonathan Kenworthy's immense bronze leopard crouching on a tree-trunk is little more than a pastiche of grandiose 19th-century Salon showstoppers. If William Pye's water pieces had been finished, they might have emerged with more credit. But the only work to make me linger here was William Tucker's *Tethys*, a lumpy anatomical fragment which evades classification and offers rich ambiguity.

In an ill-advised attempt to lighten the event with entertainment, the exhibition then allows Gerald Scarle to place a *Life-size Rhinoceros* in the middle of Harbour Yard. Apart from one bulging eyeball, the result is tame and predictable — like a model strayed from the Natural History Museum. Nothing could survive being placed next to such an overbearing work, and Roland Piche's severely restrained *Figure of Transformation* suffers from its proximity to Scarle's glum behemoth. Only Sokari Douglas Camp's irrepressible trio of African women flourish here, their crazily tangled steel bodies gesticulating like demented waiters around a table.

The main lesson of this well-intentioned but incoherent show is that each sculpture



Elisabeth Frink's *Desert Quartet III*: "Uncannily like a male reworking of Frink's own features, this implacable sentinel commands attention"

should have been given plenty of space to establish its identity. Elisabeth Frink's mesmerically staring head scores precisely because it has been positioned on its own, by a flight of steps leading down to the marina. Looking uncannily like a male reworking of Frink's own features, this implacable jaw-jutting sentinel commands attention at once. It takes masterful control of the surrounding space, whereas too many of the exhibits seem diminished by the context they inhabit. James Ritchie's untitled granite carving looks lost near the Thames, and David Amesley's writhing *Inner Nature* appears stranded next to a bridge.

Possibly sensing this danger, Maurice Bliz competes

by erecting a melodramatic nude called *Renaissance* by the river's edge. Mannered and monstrous, its rhetoric looks even more exasperating compared with Dhirva Mistry's *Diagram of an Object*. This meticulously understated bronze belies its title by limply celebrating the rapport between a parent and child.

Both Mistry and Allen Jones, who makes a rusted steel woman perform a flamboyant *Back Flip*, benefit from spacious locations by the side of the marina. And Lynn Chadwick's steel-plated *Crouching Beast III* is commandingly situated at the top of some nearby stairs. As for Michael Sandle, he goes way over the top with *A Mighty*

Blow for Freedom, where a sinewy warrior wreaks comic-book destruction on a television set.

For all its wilful exaggeration, Sandle's offering does at least prove that sculpture in public places need not be tepid and polite. If artists are too worried about causing offence, they can easily end up failing to gain any attention. Ben Panton knows how to make an impact, and his flowing, almost molten *Leaping Man* draws on Maybridge and Futurism to revel in bodily dynamism. Cleverly combining abstract motion with silhouetted figures, here is a sculpture that deserves a prominent site. Instead, it has been relegated to the back of a grassy area which also contains work by Phillip King and Takeshi Tanabe.

The RBS deserves to be commended for its initiative in mounting this ambitious venture. But if the exercise is repeated next year, drastic pruning and far more congenial settings are needed before the exhibition can score the success it fails to achieve this time around.

Chelsea Harbour Sculpture 93 is at Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 until Sept 18. For information, telephone 071 839 8333.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

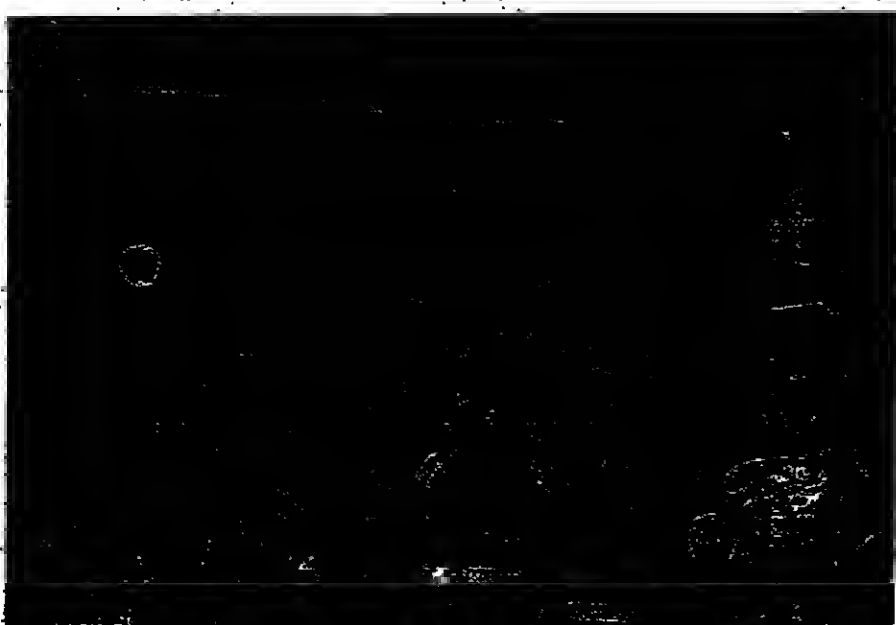
Antwerp's macabre new mascot

TODAY, the authorities in Antwerp, European City of Culture, put on show a lost painting by Pieter Brueghel the Younger as their emblem for the year. Hans Nieuwendorp, director of the Museum Mayer Van Den Bergh (where the picture will be displayed until the end of the year), says the discovery is "one of the most important events in the last decade of Flemish art history", and the painting has "cosmic philosophical dimensions".

As an advertising statement for Antwerp, however, the painting has its shortcomings. Inspired by the bubonic plague which swept through the city during the late Middle Ages, its subject is *The Triumph of Death*. Having been acquired, after the second world war, in Switzerland by the late American billionaire Peter Putnam, it was recently spotted, unacknowledged, in a corner of his Ohio home by the expert James Corcoran.

During scientific tests, infra-red reflectography revealed the underdrawing of a still-born baby hanging out of a coffin, thereby clinching the attribution. Artists only tend to leave such evidence when they are working out a composition as they go, rather than copying. Congratulations, Antwerp. Let's hope the symbolism does not stick.

WHO is selling Lord Archer's final proof for *Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less*.



The Triumph of Death, by Pieter Brueghel the Younger, completed in 1626

which brought him back from the brink in 1975, following a fatal investment which left him with a good few pennies less than he had hoped. All Christie's will say is that "the author circulated three or four print-outs of the draft among friends for corrections and improvements". But this particular proof contains corrections by none other than the author and his fragment wife Mary, thereby implying a source closer to home. Whoever he or she may be, the mystery vendor hopes to raise not a penny



Spinking aloud

MUCH grumbling down Bond Street, as Anthony Spink continues to be president of the British Antique Dealers' Association even though his company was taken over at Easter by the auctioneers, Christie's. Talk

about a clash of interests grumbles one dealer. Others point out that the BADA president's function is to stand up to auctioneers, which might be a difficult task for somebody in their employ. "My term of office finishes in July, so it's irrelevant," says "The Spink". What with constantly rushing next door for briefings from his new masters, and providing a presence at the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair, at the moment he can hardly be seen for dust.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

TELEVISION REVIEW

Lost in limbo

America's Vietnam trauma does not easily arouse sympathy here. Yet American concern with the fate of its missing prisoners of war, and the efforts of their families to prod the authorities in Washington and Saigon, are not unlike our own hostage saga. Last night's *Missing in Action* (Channel 4), a documentary in the *True Stories* series, was a sensitive study of a national obsession, but also of rare filial devotion.

Star of this film and figurehead of the campaign is Deborah, the daughter of a USAF pilot, Colonel John Robertson, who was shot down in 1966 and, along with nearly 600 others, remains missing. The story really began when a photograph, purporting to show Robertson and two other missing Americans, surfaced in Cambodia a few years ago. Having banged their heads against a wall of bureaucracy in Washington, Deborah and her friends held press conferences and succeeded in provoking the Senate into setting up a committee, which proved beyond doubt that hundreds of men had indeed been left behind in Vietnam. But the failure of the Senate hearings last year to produce any firm conclusion about whether the men were alive led the families to take matters into their own hands.

Deborah came into her own. We saw her fly to Moscow, where the original of the

which had eluded the US government was found within hours. Now convinced that somebody had faked the picture, she flew to Phnom Penh to find out whether the forgers were local Cambodian warlords, the Vietnamese or even the Americans. Deborah's conspiracy theories did not convince, but she certainly had reason to mistrust her own government.

In Cambodia she had a frustrating meeting with a bandit chief who claimed to have met her father. But the only message to emerge was that the captors wanted a large ransom. The most dramatic part of the film came when Deborah flew to Saigon and found herself being "helped" by a very Graham Greene-like American businessman, Fred Kirkpatrick, and his sidekick. They persuaded her that they had access to Robertson, and Kirkpatrick even claimed to have glimpsed him among a group of other prisoners. All that would be needed, he went on, is a million dollars. Abortive meetings were arranged — then nothing.

Deborah was very angry, and the last we saw of her was at the grim Vietnam memorial in Washington. But she had a victory of sorts: the official classification of John Robertson has changed from "missing in action" to "missing presumed alive". My guess is that she will see him again.

"THIS ONE YOU HAVE TO SEE"

SUNDAY EXPRESS

"SHEER BRILLIANT FUN"

FINANCIAL TIMES

"VENOMOUSLY FUNNY"

SUNDAY TIMES

"INFECTIOUSLY FUNNY"

DAILY TELEGRAPH

"Achingly FUNNY"

DAILY MAIL

"SEXY & FUNNY"

DAILY EXPRESS

"A MUSICAL COMEDY MADE IN HEAVEN"

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LONDON

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Pierre Boulez conducts the LSO in two programmes (each given twice) featuring some of the key works in the history of modern music: the first (tomorrow, Sun, 7.30pm) combines Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces, Op. 16, and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 (with Daniel Barenboim as the soloist), and Stravinsky's Rite of Spring (1913 version); the second is on June 24 and 25.

Barbican, Sat, Sun, 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 8.30pm.

ATTILA: Elia Moshinsky's effective staging of one of Verdi's lesser-known operas is a triumph. A superb performance by the company, and a superb performance by the company, and a superb performance by the company.

BACKSTAGE IN A CROWDED ROOM: A new play by Jane Cawthorne (author of Cat in Green Velvet), set against a background of real violence and carnal obsession in a London flat. A co-production with the National Theatre.

Blush, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3338). Opens tonight, 7pm, then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

GRAND GRAND PASTA: The South Bank is the key venue for a nine-day festival which opens tomorrow with a concert by the London Sinfonietta and the Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra (Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45pm).

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

Throughout tomorrow (from 11am to 7pm) the performance takes place in and around the Centre. On Sunday there is an all-day programme of Latin American music at Chiswick Common, and at Hammersmith Palace (8pm), a Latin double bill featuring Cuban games NO La Banda and Sierra Maestra.

South Bank Centre, SE1 (01-938 8800). Continues until June 27.

REGIONAL

ALDERBURGH: Toru Takemitsu at the festival composer of the year's Alderburgh Festival (see p. 10) is in 1984, among the works which figure in the festival.

ALDERBURGH: Ben Travers's Rocking Horse Winner is the Royal Lyceum's latest production.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jersey Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only. Seats at all prices.

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THEATRE: Authentic innocence in leading roles is at the expense of conviction

Young love no more than sad

Romeo and Juliet
Regent's Park

THIS open-air theatre's policy of never cancelling a performance until the very last moment is less proud boast than carry-over of an English summer. After blowing hurricanes all day, the rain petered out, sunshine emerged, and the Renaissance facade of Verona was looking positively fair by the time the Montagues and Capulets began biting thumbs at one another.

The crowd behaviour works well in this production by Judi Dench, far better than most of the intimate scenes involving the principals. This may be connected with the fact that both Rebecca Callard, playing Juliet, and Zubin Varla, her Romeo, these roles are their first professional experience of Shakespeare. There is a sameness in their intonation, a readiness to fix on a particular note and stay there for a line or two, coming back to that level repeatedly and never climbing higher.

Callard's rapid, unhesitating cries for Romeo are given no tremor. Varla's immediate distress after learning Juliet's identity sounds like recitation. Love at first sight must present itself as credible, even from an emotional weathercock such as Romeo or a quick-witted worker such as Juliet. Callard and Varla say the words, veer sideways and rock their heads, but give little impression that their sounds of wonder and

despair burst from the heart. Callard's matter-of-fact admission that day indeed has dawned sounds real, and she presses amazement and dismay into her last cry to Romeo's body — "Thy lips are warm!" But these twin centres of the play hardly reach the tragic condition. Significantly, it is a movement without words that comes close to it, when the supposedly dead Juliet begins to wake and briefly moves an arm, which Romeo is too self-absorbed to notice.

The dynamics of the Capulet ball are strongly imagined: the slap on a face that shifts attention, the lute-playing that preoccupies the other guests while the young lovers converse. The fight, directed by Peter Woodward, is persuasive, though once is enough for the move where Tybalt staggers backwards with Mercutio clapped in his arms like an over-sized rabbit.

It is possible to argue that Romeo and Juliet are well lost, and Paris and Tybalt too, if this is the price to pay for being rid of Mercutio. Was there ever a performance of his Queen Mab speech where its moonshine fancies gave delight? Certainly they bring no plea-



First-timers: Juliet (Rebecca Callard) and Romeo (Zubin Varla)

sure here. Jason Hetherington's Paris speaks as though thoughts impel the words; likewise Richard Simpson's Friar, and there are lively touches scattered throughout the evening. But after the exquisite *Much Ado* that

Dench directed for Renaissance a few years ago, her second Shakespeare, with its less experienced team, remains uninvolved.

JEREMY KINGSTON

OPERA

Heroine of the hour

Dido and Aeneas
Spitalfields

THE more the scholars look into Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, the more their brows furrow. The charming notion that the opera was composed for a girls' school in Chelsea has recently been thoroughly squashed — but the when, why and where of its origins are still shrouded in mystery. Meanwhile, political and sexual subtexts of devilish ingenuity have been "discovered" to explain the enigmatic plot. Purcell would have been amazed at his own cunning.

All of which seems supremely unimportant when you sit in Hawksmoor's glorious nave at Christ Church, Spitalfields, and hear Dido's great lament, "When I am laid in earth," sung with the depth of feeling and controlled intensity that Catherine Pierard brought to it. This is music that speaks through the fog of lapsed time and misunderstood circumstance, because it expresses — as perfectly as any composer ever has — an emotion that is universal: the pain of a betrayal that extinguishes love and the reason for living.

When that repeating bass-line begins its famous descent, and the voice climbs towards its anguished cries of "Remember me," it is as though several sets of irreconcilables were momentarily frozen in perfect equilibrium: life and death; humiliation and dignity; resignation and resolve. Had Purcell written nothing except these transcendental bars, his genius could still not be doubted.

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PEKING OPERA

Multifarious magic

The Little Phoenix
Queen Elizabeth Hall

IMAGINE a troupe in which Pavarotti energetically dances, Baryshnikov sings, and John Gielgud does astonishing cartwheels and back-somersaults, all to the accompaniment of what would presumably be rechristened the Amadeus Sauter and Rattle Quartet. It doesn't sound like the National or the Royal Shakespeare Company, does it? It doesn't even sound much like the Théâtre de Complicité, or one of those companies assaying what some fancifully call Total Theatre. You need to spend just one evening with the Peking Opera to know that, at best, we British have a fairly complete Theatre.

The Little Phoenix, performed by the Jing Ju Troupe as part of LIFT, is a pretty good introduction to a genre described as historical-comical-pastoral-martial-operatical-balletical-gymnastical everything, really, but tragical. The story involves antique wars, specifically the defeat of the Liaos by a Sung army led by a sort of Asian Joan of Arc or peticotated Nigel Short, a maidens' equally skilful at chess, hand-to-hand combat and, it seems, generalship.

This, I am told, a recently created piece, if also one that draws on legend; and the danger is obvious, especially given the note in the programme, "The story, this says, has a strong moral for it is Yang Pingling's humble nature that triumphs over the bad attitude of great men."

The play could be an exemplary polemic about proletarian womanhood overcoming reactionary, running dogs and other denizens of the Chinese political bestiary. But it is now 15 years since the Peking Opera was in

thrall to Madame Mao, and the effect is less didactic than romantic.

Wang Jing's Yang retains her demure charm, whether she is being mocked by a vast red-bearded figure with carnations sprouting above his chafy forehead and vertical eyebrows, or fighting an even more ferocious gentleman in black and gold. Whatever the provocation, she smiles, simper, chirrup, away, in her high soprano, and lets fly, unleashing enervating skills in herself and those around her. Never mind the plot, easy enough though it is to follow. What matters is the visual show, which is gorgeous throughout, and the physical bravura, which reaches an unforgettable climax in the last scene.

Yang Pingling, red flags protruding from the back of her patchwork robes and two-foot-long feathers joining the blooms on her head, whirrs and twirls. Meanwhile, even more exotically accoutred beings leap, spin in the air, and crash into spectacular positions, the least of which is the split. How will the company find the energy for a tour that, after they leave London, takes them to Nottingham, Manchester and Norwich? I don't know; but I do know that they should be seen by anybody who enjoys fairy-tales, the Royal Tour, the *commedia dell'arte*, the circus, or the indoor Olympics — or, of course, all those things at once.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

CAMILLE PISSARRO, Paintings, Watercolours, Pastels and Drawings, J.P. Fine Arts, 28, D'Arny Street, London, W1, 01-493 2800, Mon-Fri, 10.30-5.30, Sat, 10.30-4.30.

LEWIS GALLERY, 3, St. John's Street, London, W1, 01-493 2800, Mon-Fri, 10.30-5.30, Sat, 10.30-4.30.

MARTIN GREGORY, CHINA TRADE PICTURES, 3-5, St. John's Street, London, W1, 01-493 2800, Mon-Fri, 10.30-5.30, Sat, 10.30-4.30.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, Piccadilly, W1, 01-493 2800, Mon-Fri, 10.30-5.30, Sat, 10.30-4.30.

25TH SUMMER EXHIBITION, Book Tickets on 01-493 2800, Mon-Fri, 10.30-5.30, Sat, 10.30-4.30.

SOUTH CENTRAL, Steve Anderson's snow, low-budget morality story about

BOB YESTERDAY, Needless update of George Cukor's 1950 film from Gordon Kahn's *Pyralis* (see p. 10), redubbed by John Goodman.

MGM Chelsea (01-532 5898) Odessa (01-532 5898) Odessa (01-532 5898)

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CINEMA

CURZON MAYFAIR Curzon St, 01-493 5898 (PG) Progs at 2.00, 5.00 & 8.00

CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, 01-493 5898 (PG) Progs at 2.00, 5.00 & 8

ROCK ON FRIDAY: How pop finally consumed itself ... showers of praise forecast for Verve... Paw's bark with bite

Samples of what might have been

Pop's obsession with quotation has become as sterile as the modernism of 70 years ago, says Jeremy J. Beadle

What does art do when it cannot find a way forward? It tears itself up and starts re-arranging the fragments. This was the basic tactic behind much of the early 20th-century modernist movement in art. It was the same tactic behind Eliot's *The Waste Land* and Joyce's *Ulysses*. And this same tactic of reducing things to fragments and rearranging the pieces motivated a technologically based revolution in pop music.

It was spearheaded in the late 1960s by the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu (later and more successfully rebranded as the KLF), rockers turned musical anarchists. Pop Will Eat Itself, and the hugely successful dance single "Pump Up the Volume", by the group M/A/R/R/S.

So where is the revolution now? The technology is still with us, of course; but the urgency to purge pop's complacency is gone. About 90 per cent of chart hits make extensive use of the sample, but they no longer attempt to punch you in the face with ironic quotation.

dominated by cover versions and novelty songs (masterpieces of the order of "The Chicken Song" and "Smoker Loopy"). The best-selling songs of the year were a computer re-make (The Communards' "Don't Leave Me This Way") and Nick Brown's "The Love Train".

It was against this backdrop that Bill Drummond, a man with diverse experience of the music business, decided to form a band called the Justified Ancients of Mu Mu. One of the aims of the JAMs was to challenge the notion of a "well-crafted song". Drummond and his partner Jimmy Cauty (a

music as recorded sound; then they proceeded to tear up and re-arrange that element.

This was an astute analysis. However, many bands sour and perform live, however many insist that live performance is their raison d'être, pop music ceased to be a truly live business in the 1980s. The JAMs, however, were the studio. Pop music was only a series of effects which were possible only in the studio. The sampler made it possible for musicians to take pop apart.

At first it seemed that this new idea might prove as revolutionary as punk had been. A Midlands rock band seized on it, changed their name to Pop Will Eat Itself, and produced a series of witty, ironic, dislocating albums. Of which the best was *This is the Day... This is the Hour*. This is *This* (1989), which contrived to be both funny and serious, incorporating a range of quotation from the Osmonds to the Sex Pistols.

"Pump up the Volume" was the first No 1 to place the sampler centre-stage: it sampled rhythms, vocals and effects from various dance records to produce something rather different from the JAMs or Pop Will Eat Itself. This was a smooth, reductionist, apothecosis of the dance single. And it sold.

The following year saw a brief explosion of witty sample-based pop music. Most of it was not as socially significant or aware as the work of either the JAMs or Pop Will Eat Itself. Such hits as "Beat Dis" by Bomb the Bass, or the 1970s revivalist "Theme from S-Express" (both of which owed much to the slightly camp humour of producer Pascal Gabriel) tried to get you dancing with a smile on your face.

But singles require follow-ups, and invention soon petered out. Most of these exciting innovators were soon reduced to that old pop standby: producing cover versions of old songs. The JAMs typically found a wittier response to this problem: in their successful later identity as the KLF (the letters purportedly stood for Copyright Liberation Front), they recycled their early material in new and remixed versions.

Pop has settled back into not dislocating anything. The revolution is over

guitarist in a post-punk band) put the new technology of the "digital sampler" at the centre of their project. A sampler digests and manipulates previously recorded sounds: it allows you to make music without conventional instruments.

The music the JAMs made was something like a pop music equivalent of *The Waste Land*. Like Eliot, they cannibalised many sources. Their first release — "All You Need Is Love" — threw together the Beatles, Samantha Fox and a London reggae duo to create a statement about love and sex in the age of AIDS.

Petula Clark and a Gospel Community Choir added up to "Downtown", a sardonic survey of London and its homeless. All of these tracks created a dislocated feeling, working hard to disrupt any sense of being a "song".

Drummond and Cauty identified the basic constituent of popular



Two cones and a rhinestone, please: the KLF, in Wombles mode, with country diva Tammy Wynette

This culminated in a collaboration with country singer Tammy Wynette, who gave a ballad rendition of their early manifesto "Justified and Ancient" (originally entitled "Hey, Hey, We're Not The Monkees"), while Drummond and Cauty disguised themselves as latex ice-cream cones. While this was going on, the new technology was hijacked by DJs and producers

looking to make endlessly looping, minimalist dance music to entrance youngsters on Ecstasy at raves.

Schoenberg's revolution succeeded only in transforming serious music into a specialist interest. Picasso abandoned Cubism when his love life took a new turn. Joyce retreated into the impenetrable *Finnegans Wake*; Eliot transformed himself into a great Angli-

can reactionary. And pop's great "sampler revolution" ended in a monotonous beat with no irony, no wit and a simple hypnotic intention. The revolutions of serious and popular art both failed; but they were fun while they lasted.

Will Pop Eat Itself? Pop Music in the Soundbite Era, by Jeremy J. Beadle is published in paperback by Faber & Faber (£7.99).

NEW WAVES

The insider's guide to the Next Big Thing

Sentimental doggy songs throw snares in the path of even the demigods of pop. "Hound Dog" may have been a high point of Elvis Presley's career, but "Old Shep" is reserved strictly for the kitsch collection. But if Elvis tripped and fell over a shaggy dog story, then a quartet of rank beginners from Kansas must be blessed with the confidence of innocents to attempt a similar narrative.

Strangely enough, the aptly named Paw transcend the canine jinx. Meaty chunks of metal guitar introduce "Jessie", but once they are out of the way, vocalist Mark Hennessy howls lines such as "Please stay with me and play with me, Jessie you're a good dog, such a good dog" with the fervour of Romeo serenading Juliet.

The names of many fashionable bands (Höcker Du, Nirvana, Lemonheads, Smashing Pumpkins) are being deployed in order to pull up the assets of Paw. Do they need such upholders? The debut album, *Driftline*, shouts the answer for itself.

Yes, there are the brutal riffs which suggest that here we have yet another bunch of Metallica clones, but guitarist Grant Fitch has a talent for diverting them into choruses that open plaintively and close in squalls of guitar feedback and vocal howls.

Hennessy has the laconic singing style of an aspiring novelist, carving psychological depths as he moves from drowsy sensuality to full-on screaming in the space of a snare beat. Fitch structures his songs as jump-cuts, slicing the mood with tempo changes or contrasting guitar sounds.

With crime writer Jim Thompson cited as an influence, the subject matter of Paw's stories is suitably hard-boiled: lust, violence, loss and dogs. Now that grunge has become a movement that grown-ups can understand, rock needs to re-sharpen its claws. Paw have the bark, and the bite, for the job.

DAVID TOOP

RECORDS: Psychedelia for the 1990s from Verve; the ageless Neil Young

Windmills of the mind

VERVE
A Storm In Heaven
(Hut HUT 10)

ACCORDING to computerised models of global weather patterns, a causal link can be established between a butterfly beating its wings in a Kent garden and an eventual tornado on the plains of Nebraska. This is the idea which apparently inspired a six-minute song called "Butterfly", one of the key tracks on Verve's compelling debut album.

Verve, who come from Wigan, are often bracketed with Suede, simply because there are currently so few English groups which share their potential for greatness. Yet after four attempts they still haven't pitched a single into the Top 65. This is because, unlike Suede, their songs are an acquired taste.

The weather analogy, which even extends to the title of the album, is as good as any to describe the scrambled and mysterious logic of their music: operating along broadly foreseeable lines but encompassing a fascinating mosaic of possibilities.

Many of the tracks have a floating, nebulous quality. Typical is the lazy guitar and fat, loose drum sound of "Slide Away" or the creamy chords washing against the delicately brushed beat of "Beautiful Mind". But there is a sinister undercurrent in the twilight nuances of "Virtual World", the unhinged turbulence of "Butterfly" and the droney, druggy eummi of "Starsail".

The album has clearly taken the era of 1960s psychedelia as its template. There are touches of the Rolling Stones at their most woozy, the Velvet Underground at their most velvet, and even a dash of Simple Minds in the majestic swirl of their current single "Blue". But it is a mistake to believe that Verve actually sound like any of these acts.

In an era of soundbites and instant sensations, Verve have created something that is languorous and enduring, but no less dangerous for that.

NEIL YOUNG
Unplugged
(Reprise 9362-45310)

WHILE some acts reveal themselves in a new light by



Fame, James, and don't spare the horsepower: debutants Verve trip the light fantastic

plugged, others are already tailor-made for it. For all his odd career moves and latterday adventures with high volume rock 'n' roll, Neil Young has always been a folk troubadour at heart, instinctively knowing how to reap the maximum benefit from an acoustic guitar, a raked-up moose — passion and that high-battered howl of a voice.

Here he tickles a selection of material spanning his entire career, injecting a lachrymose passion into old chestnuts like "Mr Soul", "Helpless" and "The Needle and The Damage Done", along with more recent material, including three songs from last year's *Harvest Moon*.

The hushed atmosphere and enthusiastic reception are just right, but apart from a wonderful version of "Like A Hurricane", where he conjures an almost ethereal accompaniment from the pipes

of a wheezing pump organ, there are few surprises.

JAMIROQUAI
Emergency On Planet Earth
(Sony Soho Square 474069)

AT LAST, a British soul record that cuts through the arty guf that has held back all those acts on the Talbin Loud Jabi (Omar, the Young Disciples, Galliano et al) and gets to the heart of the matter.

Jamiroquai, the West London band fronted by Jason Kay, have recorded a debut which combines youthful brio with musicianship of the very highest order. And, so long as one takes the absurdly earnest, politically correct tone of the lyrics with a sizable pinch of salt, it's a lot of fun too.

As is often the case, the 22-year-old Kay is far less self-conscious about raiding the archives for ideas than are those acts who were around at the time. Maybe he does sound a tad like Stevie Won-

der, but Wonder has not recorded anything remotely as good as the high-licking funk of "Hooked Up" or the instrumental Latin fusion workout of "Music Of The Mind" for ten years at least. And he didn't use a didgeridoo, either.

PAUL WESTERBERG
14 Songs
(Sire/Reprise 9362-45255)

PAUL Westerberg was the frequently frazzled frontman of the Replacements, the erratic quartet from Minneapolis which fell apart three years ago. If it wasn't obvious at the time that the band's fortunes were pegged entirely to his songwriting talents, then this tremendous solo debut is more than enough to dispel any lingering doubts.

Elegantly and intelligently constructed from primary rock 'n' roll materials, the 14 songs vary from the Keith Richards-like swagger of "Silver Naked Ladies" and "Knockin' On Mine" to the utterly desolate junkie ballad "Black Eyed Susan".

The standard never falters, and throughout the wry humour of "Mannequin Shop", the punky blast of "Something Is Me" and the delicate romanticism of "First Glimmer". Westerberg achieves a perfect balance between poetic intimacy and authoritative cool.

DAVID SINCLAIR

1. Emergency On Planet Earth Jamiroquai (Orenda)
2. Unplugged Neil Young (Reprise)
3. What's Love Got to Do With It Tina Turner (Parlophone)
4. Unplugged ... And Seated Rod Stewart (Warner Brothers)
5. Pocket Full of Kryptonite Spin Doctors (Epic)
6. Automatic For The People R.E.M. (Warner Brothers)
7. No Limits 2 Unlimited (PWL Continental)
8. Elements Tears For Fears (Mercury)
9. Janet Janet Jackson (Virgin)
10. Liberator Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark (Virgin)

CONCERT

Neanderthal men

10cc
Hammersmith
Apollo

TRUMPET-ED as the "classic hits and more" tour, 10cc's first outing for a decade delivered the promised hits but was profoundly lacking in the "more" part of the equation.

Two original members of the band that dominated the singles charts in the middle 1970s remain. The diminutive Eric Stewart, in dark glasses, played up the role of songwriting eminence grise to the hilt. Graham Gouldman worked the all-smiling, thumbs-up angle with conviction.

Backed by unfailingly precise session men, their musicianship frequently promoted technical expertise over basic human communication. While Stuart Tosh and Gary Wallace, who alternated on percussion, diligently kept the showmanship to a minimum, guitarists Stewart and Rick Fern had a greater problem keeping their egos on a leash, frequently playing as if they had more than the statutory allocation of fingers.

These vocal harmonies dominated throughout and, although Stewart and Gouldman possess relatively characterless voices, they worked pleasantly enough in combination.

Yet for all the melodic gymnastics and intricate arrangements, the show was uncomfortably sterile. "Art for Art's Sake" plodded aimlessly; "Dreadlock Holiday" came and went without any audience member conspicuously over-reacting to its cod-Caribbean charms, and a reggae-fied rendition of "Paperback Writer" met with a muted response.

Even the band's best-loved number, "I'm Not In Love", was performed too fast, while the keyboards reduced the song's multi-layered foundation of gently breathing chords to an ugly wheezing.

It was only with the encores that the band appeared to loosen up. "Rubber Bullets", like its subject matter, was hard and bouncy, while "Life Is A Minestrone" was consumed with relish.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

WHAT'S OUT AND ABOUT THIS COMING WEEK

SINGLE: Smashing Pumpkins' "Cherub Rock" (Hut HUT 31). Immaculate slice of post-grunge guitar rock from the Chicago band. Released Monday.

BOOK: The ninth Guinness Book of British Hit Singles by Paul Gambaccini, Tim Rice and Jonathan Rice (Guinness Publishing £10.99). Update of the chart statistician's bible, now a million-seller. Clear, precise layout traces the fortunes of the 4,261 popastic acts which have enjoyed a placing in the British singles chart since 1952. For the first time, Elvis Presley's tally of hits (109) has been bettered by Cliff Richard (110). Published Monday.

VIDEO: Soede release a long-form video called *Boorlee 1*, containing "candid"

live footage of their 1992-93 British tour, plus the video promos for all four singles released so far. Directed by Alan Fisher, it is available by mail order only from Dungeon Master Productions, 196 High Road, London N22 4TH. £15.99 including p&p. Suede and film director Derek Jarman are teaming up for an Aids multimedia charity event at the Grand, London SW11 (071-738 9000) on July 12.

NOW BOOKING: Aerosmith tickets go on sale tomorrow for dates at: Sheffield Arena (0742 565 500) October 21; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) October 23-24; SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000) October 29; Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) December 7-8. Aerosmith's new single "Eat The Rich" is released on Monday.

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Ticket holders for the cancelled performances between 21 and 26 June inclusive can either exchange their tickets for a later performance or obtain a full refund through the original point of purchase.

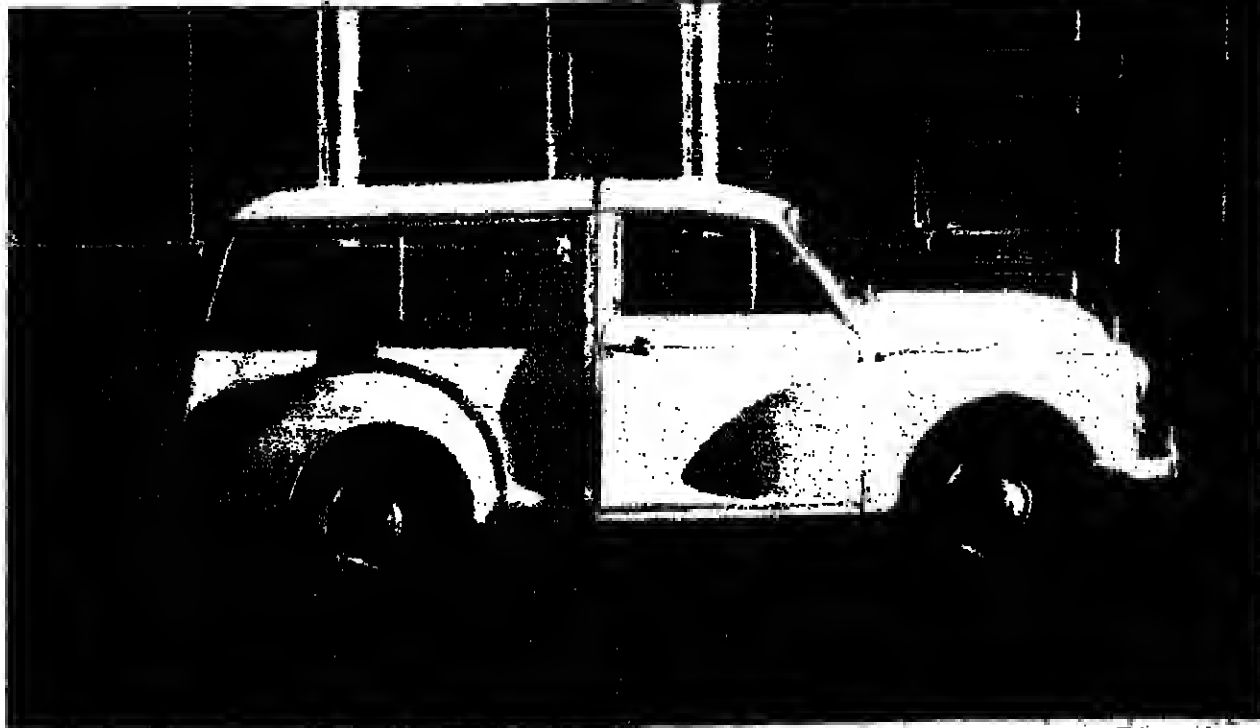
Tickets for the performances between 1 and 10 July inclusive, which will now be previews, remain valid. However, ticket holders who do not wish to attend these previews can, by contacting their original point of purchase, either exchange their tickets for a future performance or obtain a full refund.

Ticket holders for 12 July should contact Ticketmaster on 071-344 0345 to change their tickets for a later performance or obtain a full refund.

All ticket holders who purchased their tickets through either Ticketmaster or the box office should call Ticketmaster on 071-344 0345 if they wish to make any changes as detailed above.

EXECUTIVE CARS

Between 70 and 80 per cent of all executive-class cars are bought by companies — but that may change. Kevin Eason explains



From the sublime to the beloved: British executives drive everything from a £180,000 Bentley Continental to a Morris Minor Traveller, a survey has shown. The total value of company fleets is estimated at £120 million.

The perk that drove a thousand careers

They sit on the carefully trimmed drives of thousands of suburban homes up and down the land, new, shiny, expensive... and paid for by someone else. The pride and joy of a typical senior manager is a £19,000 BMW, a gleaming testament to the modern executive car. In future, he or she might be prepared to settle for a Morris Minor thanks to the government's new tax plans, which seem sure to force changes in the way in which executive cars are bought.

An executive car is effectively a company car. Between 70 and 80 per cent of all models in the executive class, typified by the Rover 800, Ford Granada, BMW 5-series and Mercedes 200, are bought by companies. A glance at the executive job advertisements shows that the remuneration package offered most often includes salary plus car. The result is a breed of elegant, high-performance models that are crammed with luxurious features and, remarkably, all pinned to two golden rules under the tax system.

The rules that govern how much

company drivers pay in benefit-in-kind have long been tied to engine size, up to 2000cc, and price, less than £19,250. The result is a cluster of models with two-litre engines while the average cost of an executive car is £19,000, just below the upper threshold.

New rules, in force from next April, will tie benefit-in-kind tax to 35 per cent of the car's list price. That means that the more you spend, the more you pay in tax. Most people will be better off, but as many as 700,000 of Britain's four million company car drivers will pay up to 40 per cent more tax.

Some deserve to pay more, according to a survey of 5,400 executives by Stoy Benefit Consulting for Volkswagen, which discovered that the notion of the "perk" car is very much alive and well.

While one executive claimed to cover 60,000 business miles a year and three in four cover about 25,000, one respondent was bold enough to admit that his company car travelled only about 20 miles a year on behalf of the business — barely enough to warm the engine.

The top five manufacturers —

BMW, Ford, Rover, Vauxhall and Mercedes — accounted for 55 per cent of the models in the survey.

But a remarkable disparity in choice illustrates how hard the tax rules could hit some drivers.

The dearest car listed in Stoy's survey of executive transport was a £180,000 Bentley Continental, which — on the assumption that the

particular executive pays tax at the 40 per cent upper rate and covers more than 2,500 business miles annually — would attract a tax bill this year of £4,016.

The cheapest car in Stoy's survey was a 1968 Morris Minor Traveller worth £750. The same executive making the more humble choice of the Morris might have to pay £632

this year but will enjoy the luxury of paying the Inland Revenue just £47 in 1994-5, Lex says.

Does this signal the end of the executive car? Many managers are thinking about giving it up and would profit, according to the Stoy study, its researchers estimate that 57 per cent of executives would be better off taking extra pay and a

mileage allowance and paying for their own car. As many as 30 per cent would be better off by £750 a year.

Companies will certainly be thinking hard because the 5,400 company respondents were paying about £38 million a year to provide cars while the total value of the fleets surveyed was £120 million.

The fact that the average car costs about £6,984 a year to run will be a sobering reminder that the best virtue of the company car is that someone else pays for it.

A report for Lex shows that executive motorists benefit by having newer, bigger and better cars than the average motorist — and they have the optional extras, such as phones, sunroofs and air-conditioning, that private motorists forego. Now executive drivers may think twice before ordering their extras, Lex found that about 35 per cent of company drivers would simply do without these options.

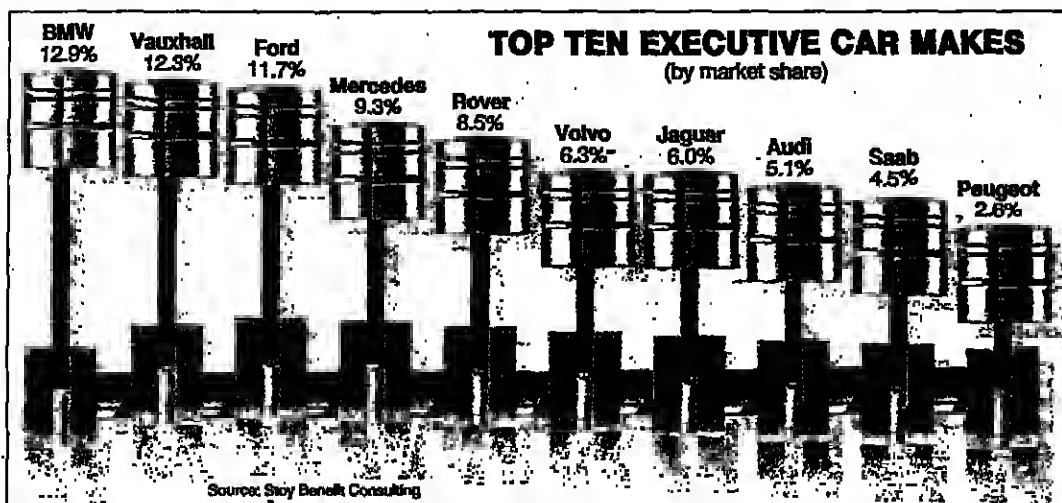
And many are already changing the type of car they drive, although not always because of cost. The Rover 800 was the top selling executive car last year but in a

sector which diminished as motorists switched their affections to a variety of different models.

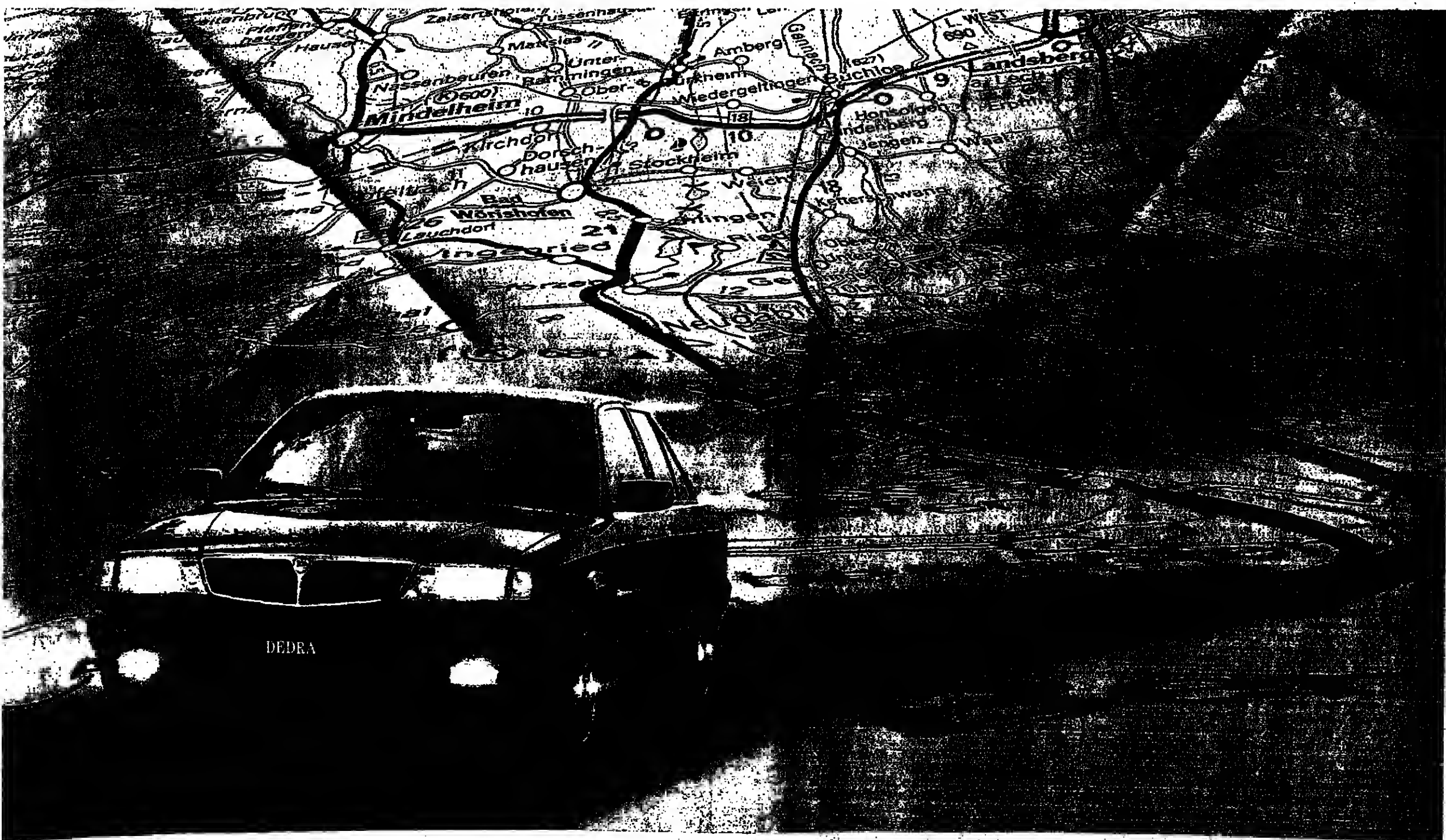
The executive sector has traditionally accounted for 8 to 9 per cent of the overall market. Last year, it slumped to 48,400 cars, just 6.2 per cent, but the slack was taken up by drivers moving from saloons to models such as the Range Rover and Land-Rover Discovery. Cars such as the Ford Mondeo and Rover 600 in their most opulent, top-of-the-range guises are also attracting the attention of executives.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders senses the shift. "The executive sector is no longer so easy to pin down," a spokesman says. "Some executives now no longer want to drive one type of model which is normally associated with their job. They might want a four-wheel drive vehicle, a leisure vehicle or a car which is smaller than the traditional concept of an executive car."

"The executive car as a part of the market is, however, very much alive and well... just changing fast."



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A low tax or a high life

Drivers are willing to pay more tax to keep the car they want, reports Menzies



Compared with the media hype immediately following the Chancellor's announcement of a new benefit-in-kind tax regime for company car users from April 1994, fleet reaction has been on indifference. Stephen Barrett, Hertz Leasing's general manager, is astonished by the continued emphasis on the price of £19,250, over which cars attract more tax. He suggests that tax bills will become a status symbol.

The lethargic response to the new taxes, based on a straight 35 per cent of the car's list price, is highlighted in a couple of recent surveys. Fleet News reported recently that key fleet operators anticipated a limited swing towards cheaper cars and that fewer drivers will contribute to wars over fine-tuning rather than a major overhaul.

Lex Vehicle Leasing contacted drivers for its report "The Company View". More than half said they would endure higher taxation rather than change their cars, although 44 per cent said they would keep vehicles for more than four years. Drivers thought the scheme fairer than the current

method of assessment, despite 72 per cent believing that their tax bill would increase next year.

Colin McLean, the chairman of the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association's leasing committee and managing director of Highways Vehicle Leasing, says: "We will have to wait until next year before drivers fully realise the effects of the tax changes. Then we could see people opting for larger-engined cars if they are going to be penalised for a current car, anyway."

Andy Thompson, the secretary of the Finance and Leasing Association, is another who foresees a shift to bigger-engined vehicles because of the abandonment of tax breaks based on engine size. This is contrary to the expectations of many who had forecast a trend towards smaller engine cars.

As for the predicted demise of the typical "perk" car, Len Hunt, UK Operations Director at Jaguar, is not worried. "We view the Budget changes

as an opportunity and foresee the demand for our cars strengthening. In fact, one of our dealers placed a big advertisement in his local paper thanking Mr Lamont," he says.

The cheapest Jaguar XJ6 costs £26,200 and has a 3.2 litre engine. Drivers will get a small tax reduction under the new rules. The £37,800, four litre Sovereign will cost its 40 per cent tax-paying middle-mileage band driver £1,220 less in tax from April 1994.

Executive choice: weighing up the odds

car choice based on these amounts. And I do not think we will see much post-purchase fitting of extras, firstly because they do not add that much, proportionately, to the list price or tax, and secondly, many warranties will preclude extensive afterwork."

The issue of "retro-fitting" is sure that other manufacturers will also be considering niche ranges to counter the lowering of prices of luxury cars, but he is wary of long-term predictions on the profile of the typical fleet. "It is likely that the main fleet will shift towards less expensive, lower specification models, but there is no agreement over the future of the luxury car. Some say it will flourish, others say it will disappear. But you have to consider the aspirational factor and the possibility that the definition of luxury may change in the coming years. In future we may all aspire to small, but very highly specified, cars."

Rolls Royce which, with other expensive car producers could have been in trouble because of the new tax method, has successfully lobbied the Treasury for a cap, set at £80,000, to give it protection. The trend towards flexible benefits for employees could adversely affect the market. Directors of the future may opt for a Mini and some money rather than a Mercedes.

Magnificent howl of the mighty V-12

The ultimate engine is part of car history, says Eric Dymock

When Enzo Ferrari outlined plans for his new sports racing car in 1947, his instructions to the designer Gioacchino Colombo were explicit. It had to have a 12-cylinder engine. Ferrari drew the outline. Colombo worked out the details.

Ferrari explained in his book "The 12-cylinder is an engine I cherished ever since I saw the photos of a 12-cylinder Packard that raced at Indianapolis."

He greatly admired the Packard Twin-Six staff cars used by top American army officers after the first world war. Its engine was smooth and powerful, with a resonant exhaust note, and although there have been four, six and eight-cylinder Ferraris, it was always the 12s which were the distinctive banishes howl that most thrilled Ferrari drivers.

Ferrari's attachment to 12 cylinders may have been emotional, but there were good technical reasons for it. The power impulses of a six-cylinder engine are in perfect

balance, but a V-12 is twice as steady and runs like a turbine. The Packard was not the only great American 12 — the Lincoln Zephyr, the Lycoming-engined Auburn and the Pierce-Arrow V-12 were all stirring cars.

Rolls-Royce joined the V-12 elite with the Phantom III in the 1930s. Daimler with its Double-Six, Lagonda, Horch and Maybach all made V-12s. In the 1970s, when Jaguar wanted to develop the E-Type into a Ferrari lookalike, and Lamborghini set up in competition, they too went for the most extravagant, exuberant engineering of all, the V-12.

Mercedes-Benz is the most earnestly engineering-based car firm in the world. It does nothing that is not carefully

considered and rational. If emotion comes into the design, it is carefully kept in its place. Yet like Jaguar and BMW, when it came to an engine for its most expensive, most prestigious car of all — the big S-Class saloon — there was only one choice, a V-12.

The Mercedes V-12 also went into the successor of the great Mercedes-Benz sports cars designed under Ferdinand Porsche in the 1920s and 1930s: the SS, SSK (Kurz for short) and SSKL (Leicht for light). Its modern counterpart is the SL (Sport Leicht) two-seater which Mercedes sells with a relatively humble six-cylinder engine for £53,200, or £58,000 with a four-valve cylinder head. For £74,400 it comes with a five-litre V-8.

But for its flagship model, nothing less than the best would suffice, and the best, smoothest, most powerful option is the V-12, at £96,400. Its top speed is limited to 155mph by the gentleman's agreement among major German manufacturers (save Porsche) but



Top precision: the Jaguar XJS V-12 is rivalled only by Mercedes for smoothness

ultimate speed is not the aim of this car. Its ability to sweep the occupants to 100mph on the autobahn inside 15 seconds with none of the Ferrari's mechanical commotion and none of the Porsche's road roar sets it apart. Only the latest Jaguar XJS can match the Mercedes for silence and smoothness.

The 600SL is crammed with electronic excellence. Its suspension has an automatic damping system that keeps the car on an even keel. The hydraulically controlled automatic transmission harnesses the engine's 395bhp judiciously, calling up the higher gears to take advantage of the V-12's

colossal pulling power without revving to high engine speeds. It pulls away with scarcely a murmur, an immensely fast touring car rather than an agile sports car.

The equipment, the detailing, and the operation of the convertible top — which folds with utmost precision under a metal cover or remains taut and quiet when in use — make the car a masterpiece. It is possible to drive it fast enough to obtain single-figure miles per gallon although 16 to 18mpg is more likely.

Is it worth the best part of £100,000? When Mercedes-Benz set out to design its S-Class some ten years ago, a V-

12 was still the ultimate in speed and luxury. Jaguar's was well-established and superb. Ferrari's and Lamborghini's 12s were pace-setters in the sporting field, and BMW already had its own in hand. Mercedes therefore probably felt it could not be left behind.

Yet the Mercedes V-12 does little that the five-litre V-8 cannot manage, and its extra weight makes the 600SL feel less nimble. It is magnificent but it is probably passing into history; and, as Cadillac found in 1930 when it introduced the world's first production V-16 to up-stage Packard, it is probably unnecessary.

He can sell but can he drive?

Too many company motorists are not skilled enough. Help is at hand

John Bejeman's clean-cut young executive who drove the firm's Cortina has been replaced by a new generation of company drivers who sit behind the wheel of modern two-litre saloons capable of a performance that often outstrips their driving ability.

However, companies that spend hundreds of pounds a month on lease payments for such vehicles but nothing on driver training are still in the majority.

There are signs that this is changing, and the improved availability of advanced and high-performance driving courses, often sponsored by motor manufacturers, means that more and more drivers are accelerating onto the motorways better equipped to handle their cars safely and achieve greater satisfaction from the hours they spend behind the wheel.

The high-mileage representative has traditionally taken a pride in his or her driving, but the company car is now a perk for many more staff, some of whom have relatively little driving experience.

The RAC, as one of the biggest organisers of advanced driving training courses, explains: "The L-test, which is probably the only gauge of driving ability for most people, is really only a very basic test, giving just the knowledge required to be allowed out, unaccompanied, to develop your driving skills over a number of years."

"You will have been developing that skill ever since the test without any guidance, but how do you know that your skills have been developing properly?"

A spokesman for RAC Enterprises, which runs the courses, says: "We often discover when assessing company drivers that problems are created by bad habits which have developed over the years or simply because the driver is driving in the way he was taught many years ago."

The design of modern cars is such that many techniques which in the past were desirable or even necessary, need to be amended. In particular, advances have been made in the design of braking and steering systems.

"In all the major aspects of your working life, you will have been encouraged to develop your abilities to the full, whether it be selling ability, business management or personnel management. "Is it not ridiculous that, when you consider that driv-

ing is probably for most of us the most dangerous activity we do in our everyday life, we do not seek to develop our skills further?"

Company drivers are often enrolled for advanced-driver training after accidents. Fleet Management Group, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, a specialist company that helps companies to run their fleets, has found that its accident-management unit can pinpoint driving faults that have led to accidents.

The company takes on responsibility for picking up the pieces, metaphorically, after an accident. Its specialists can speed up insurance claims and get cars back on the road quickly, as well as offering support to the driver involved. Its system means that, with its special computer program, it can identify the cause of an accident. In cases of persistent driver error, the company recommends advanced training.

Chris Lucas, the accident management manager, says: "By knowing the correct procedure to follow, we can find out exactly what caused an accident and make recommendations to fleet users about the type of vehicles they are using. We can also find out why driver error is occurring. This means that we are able to recommend that driver training is provided to improve a particular aspect of a driver's technique. It may be that parking in a tight corner is causing problems or that motorway driving techniques are to blame, and we can help companies to solve these problems."

Companies are advised to use the services of specialists who can provide intensive instruction, such as the courses run by the former Formula One drivers John Watson at Silverstone and Dr Jonathan Palmer at Bruntingthorpe in Leicestershire.

Manufacturers such as Ford, Mercedes-Benz and Audi also offer advanced driver training, but there is now no shortage of highly skilled instruction for the company driver.

DAVID YOUNG

Companies supplying courses include: HPC Ltd of Surrey (0883 349411); Paul Ripley Driving Courses, of Leeds (0532 383194); Jim Russell Racing Drivers Schools (0232 811430); ATC Advanced Training, North Weald airfield, Essex (0992 522287); Driving Management, Berkshire (0628 527397); Drive Tech (0628 473537); RAC Enterprises (081-080 0080); Drive Tech (Buckinghamshire) (0628 473537).

Diesels make their mark

Once they were felt to be noisy and dirty, but new models dispel the image



Competition car: Audi has reacted to BMW moves by cutting £1,800 from its 100 TDI

Large diesel saloons have suffered until recently from a poor image that has prevented their use in large numbers as an executive alternative. The executive, looking for whispering engines, effortless performance, and prestige, has not been seduced by large diesel engines that, while offering excellent fuel economy and seemingly infinite engine longevity, do little for his street credibility.

Now things have changed. It is increasingly bad form to wait around in a brand new petrol-engined limousine during a recession, no matter how strongly such cars convey the all-important "I've arrived" image.

The smart director is now more likely to be seen driving a diesel-engined vehicle, not only because it makes profound economic and environmental sense, so sending a clear message to the firm's other company car drivers, but also because for the first time there are some truly excellent diesel-engined executive cars on the market.

A survey of fleet managers at last month's BRS Car Lease Diesel Drive 93 company car show, held in Warwickshire, showed that 98 per cent of fleet managers believed the number of diesel cars in company

fleets will rise, and be more acceptable to drivers.

Helping such perceptions is the change in personal tax liability burden on the company car, which from next year will be based on 35 per cent of the car's retail price. The old system, based on price and engine size, doubly penalised the diesel-engined cars, which usually have larger engines to offer the same performance as a petrol version, and also because diesels have often been more expensive.

The use of turbo-chargers on diesel engines has largely answered the performance problem while manufacturers are now actively eroding the price differentials which have existed between their petrol and diesel models.

Paul Bates, the general manager of BRS Car Lease, says: "People are still concerned about the image. I think it is going to take time

before diesel executive cars really catch on, but it will happen as the old prejudices are broken down by the improvement in performance of the new cars."

"However, there is a greater acceptability for diesels. They are being seen as the right move for executives and portraying the right image of a driver who is environmentally aware and cost-effective in his actions."

Economy is the key. The car fleet management company PHH estimates that diesels are 24 per cent cheaper to run over 60,000 miles. They are 20-30 per cent more fuel efficient, and their residual value is much stronger, particularly in the executive sector where cars can lose 50 per cent of their value in the first two years.

Executive interest in diesels has been stirred by the new range of BMW 3 and 5 Series diesels, adding to competition

that includes the Audi 100TDI, the new C-Class Mercedes-Benz, Rover's diesel 800, the Peugeot 605TDI (the best-selling diesel executive car last year) and Citroën's XM.

BMW has targeted executive user-choosers with its new diesels, which are available in 3 and 5 Series saloons, plus 5 Series Touring format with automatic and manual options. The 5 Series ranges in price from £20,100 to £27,295 for the 525tds Touring SE Auto. The six-cylinder, turbo-diesel engines put out 115bhp in standard form, which rises to 143bhp with an intercooler, and BMW claims its 57bhp per litre is a world record for a diesel engine, giving 133mpg and a 0-60mph time of about ten seconds.

Audi has reacted to the BMW competition by cutting £1,800 from its 100TDI saloon and estate prices, down to £21,400 and £22,665 respectively. What Car? magazine

this year chose the Audi 100TDI as its best diesel car of 1993. The 115bhp TDI has a top speed of 121mph and 0-60mph time of 12.3 seconds. There is a six-speed gearbox option, to go with Audi's legendary reputation for build quality and safety.

From Mercedes-Benz comes the all-new C-Class to replace the 190 range, which includes in its seven-engine range a two litre and 2.5 litre, both with four cylinders, and the C250D, 2.5 litre diesel with the option of automatic transmission. Prices will be announced when the car goes on sale in October.

Rover's 800 series was the best-selling executive car last year, and the diesel versions use a 2.5 litre engine. The cars benefit from the British manufacturer's attention to its own heritage. Their leather and wood-lined cabins ooze opulence and there is a traditional front grille, all harking back to the British cars of the 1950s and 1960s. The 825d has a top speed of 116mph, it covers 0-60mph in just under 12 seconds and costs from £18,600.

From France come the Citroën XM and the Peugeot 605 which share the same 2.1 litre, 110bhp, turbo-diesel engine. Despite their under-the-skin similarities, the cars each have their own character; the XM with its unique Citroën suspension offers hugely relaxed long-distance motoring, while the 605 is more sporty.

The XM, priced from £18,435, has a top speed of 116mph and a 0-60 mph time of 12.4 seconds, while the 605 costs from £18,625, with a top speed of 114mph and 0-60mph time of 12.8 seconds.

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Dream machines

In a trend that is the four-wheeled equivalent of coaxing water to run uphill, the car world has defied the recession this year and launched a batch of models that measure their speeds in hundreds of miles per hour and their asking prices in hundreds of thousands of pounds.

They are the ultimate alternative for the jaded executive who wants something extra special: supercars such as Jaguar's XJ220, a legend in its own launch-time, and claimed as the world's fastest production car, with a top speed of 217mph and an asking price of £415,000. The XJ220 is not even the most expensive of the supercars on offer, though it is one of the most contentious.

When it was first unveiled to an admiring public in 1989, the XJ220 was proposed as a V12 with four-wheel drive. The reality is a rear-wheel drive V6, coming on to a seriously depressed market.

Many of the customers happy in the boom days of the late 1980s to put down a £50,000 deposit for the car are now locked in litigation with Jaguar, willing to forfeit their deposits rather than take delivery and find the £365,000 balance.

The newest newcomer in the supercar paddock is the McLaren F1, a beautifully crafted three-seater that has lurking beneath the shell an out-and-out Formula One race car. The F1 is priced at

If you need to ask the price — then you cannot afford one. **Vaughan Freeman** looks at the ultimate in status symbols

£530,000, higher than the XJ220 by the price of a Bentley. Its top speed has not been divulged but it is said to have reached 220mph in testing, with more to come.

The engine is a made-to-order BMW six-litre V12. The man behind the car is Gordon Murray, McLaren Cars' technical director. Development drivers include Formula One's Mika Hakkinen and former grand prix driver, Jonathan Palmer. Such credentials are impeccable.

This is a part of the motoring world in which racing heritage is all. Thus, from the legendary pre-war racing stable of Bugatti, comes the EB110.

Launched earlier this year, the Bugatti is a 3.5 litre two-seater priced at £343,000, with a top speed of about 213mph and permanent four-wheel drive. Drawbacks? Fuel consumption is about four miles per gallon, and the insurance bill is the equivalent of a very nice Mercedes (£30,000) each year.

No supercar name carries more prestige than Ferrari, which has also seen orders drop because of the recession but is about to remedy that with two new cars. First is the

456GT, the most expensive and most powerful new Ferrari with a top speed of just under 190mph — a mere snip at £150,000. The 456GT goes on sale in the UK towards the end of the year, and has at its heart a front-mounted 5.5 litre V12 engine driving through the front wheels.

Ferrari is testing another car, codenamed the F130, to carry the mantle of the ultimate Ferraris such as the lamented F40. The F130 is a V12 using formula one carbon-fibre technology for body strength and lightness, together with a detuned version of Ferrari's current Formula One engine. The price is expected to be more than £200,000 when the car goes on sale next year.

British car builders are still successfully wooing drivers looking for something that epitomises quality. From Crewe comes Bentley, another car with an impressive motorsport heritage. The Bentley Brooklands cashes in, politely of course, on that racing past.

At £87,000, the Brooklands is possibly one of the best-value supercars, despite a relatively modest top speed of 125mph. For those

seeking more oomph, and with £121,000 to spare, there is the Bentley Turbo R, one of the most deceptive cars on the road. The acceleration is astonishing for a car that will take five people and all of their luggage in drawing-room style comfort.

Similarly British, but without the comfort and space, is the Aston Martin. It is now part of Ford, which has pumped fresh energy in the firm thanks to Walter Hayes, the former Ford man and new Aston chairman.

The company pledges to supply cars of such quality that they will outlast their owners. Aston's 5.3 litre Vantage, capable of over 150mph, costs from £133,000. Its bigger brother, the £177,000, 185mph Vantage, is "probably the finest, though we have no doubts, grand touring car in the world", Mr Hayes says.

Significantly, the Aston, a car that would buy 15 of the Ford Mondeo built by its parent company, is only half the cost of the most expensive supercars now available.

This, though, is a world where an Aston does not really have to compete for fuel efficiency, leg room or boot capacity — or asking price — with a McLaren F1 or a Bugatti. A customer looking to buy such cars is just as likely to opt instead for a helicopter or a thoroughbred race horse.



Raised profile: the Jaguar XJ220, ready for inspection, is claimed to be the fastest production car

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If you want to sell, play safe

As crime rises, manufacturers are leading the way to greater security

A man returned home to find his garage doors wide open. Amazingly, his precious new Mercedes was still inside. Unable to believe his good fortune — the thieves must have been disturbed, he reasoned — he tried the engine. There was a deafening roar — his entire exhaust system had been stolen. The motorist was the victim of a new trend of stealing to order. Theft of and from vehicles is the fastest growing crime in Britain and a car is stolen on average every minute of every day. A quarter of all the vehicles are never recovered.

Car manufacturers are responding by making tougher security devices part of their sales pitch. All the big new launches this year have included security devices, with immobilisers fitted as standard in models at the top of ranges.

Derick Perkins, the director of maintenance control at Fleet Management Services, says: "Security has improved dramatically and the manufacturers are to be congratulated. Buyers of new cars have not had to pay more to have security devices fitted as standard."

Recent launches, with security devices fitted, have included the Nissan Micra, Vauxhall Corsa, Peugeot 306, Rover 600, Ford Mondeo and Citroen Xantia. Norwich Union, the leading car insurer, approves the standard security systems introduced this year in the Jaguar XJ40 range and the Rover MG RVS. Premiums for cars in both ranges take the security systems into account.

A spokesman for Ford said that the trend was to fit security devices as standard across the range and not just for executive cars. The Mondeo can offer an alarm that immobilises the engine and is activated by a door being opened, a window broken or the bonnet lifted. When a door is locked it cannot be opened except with the key, even from the inside.

The spokesman added: "Our feedback from dealers, particularly in inner-cities, is that drivers feel an alarm is necessary and they are willing to pay for one."

Hard-hitting insurance companies are joining vehicle security firms in fighting the growing wave of crime. As the thieves become more cunning, so do the anti-theft devices, with the accent increasingly on immobilising the car in the event of a break-in.

Vickie Brown, marketing services manager at Ross Group, says: "The Home Office campaign showing a pack of hyenas clambering over cars created a huge awareness of the need for security. With insurance claims rocketing, more and more insurance companies are demanding that car owners have security devices fitted."

A Ross subsidiary, Gemini Electronics, makes alarm systems at Worcester. Miss Brown admits that they seem expensive, ranging from £100 for a basic alarm up to £500 for a full system, but she adds: "£500 is not a lot to pay to protect your car."

Gemini supplies 17 Euro-

pean car manufacturers and its products are approved by large insurance companies such as Norwich Union and General Accident, leading to discounts on installation costs and insurance premiums.

Similar discounts are available on Vectra products. A spokeswoman at General Accident says that the discounts can take £60-£100 off the cost of installing an effective device.

Devices are becoming more sophisticated. For example, the Gemini immobiliser switches itself on automatically 20 seconds after the ignition is turned off. Gemini has a new pager that alerts the driver if his alarm is activated. A spokeswoman said: "A lot of car crime is committed while the owner is only 100 yards or so away but does not realise the alarm has gone off."

Insurers say they are trying to encourage the fitting of immobilisers because alarms alone have not brought a noticeable drop in thefts. Mr Perkins agrees: "In 1992 there was a 13 per cent increase in the number of cars stolen and



Youth opportunity: careless drivers pay

not recovered from fleets — and this in a year when more alarms than ever were fitted." He says the thefts have switched from basic cars to high specification vehicles.

However, Mr Perkins adds: "We advise our clients to be cautious before spending anything from £265 to £600 on alarms. Car thieves know that few people pay any attention when an alarm goes off as this often happens accidentally. Many motorists also fail to activate alarms for fear that they will go off by accident and cause them embarrassment."

Meanwhile, the search for the ultimate deterrent goes on. Ford has completed a feasibility study into a device that will pinpoint the location of a stolen vehicle to within a few yards anywhere in Europe. The problem is to get a complex device, working via a satellite, compressed into a couple of computer chips. Ford reckons the device could be fitted into its cars in two to three years.

RODNEY HOBSON

Unfortunate BMW Mercedes and Audi What Car's?

The Lexus remains its place as the best luxury car. It is beautifully built, it has a remarkably low running cost and the best warranty you'll find in any car. Then they went on. "Now consider the complete specification, the extensive warranty, and the fact that you could buy a Lexus and, at the cost of the nearest rival in this test (the BMW), still have change to

buy a small city run-around, and the case in favour of the Lexus becomes overwhelming. Flattering, but it's not new to the Lexus of course. A car that is better dynamically than anything we've ever driven in the top luxury car market, and a car which is the quietest and most refined you've ever been in, were typical opinions at its launch.

But any hopes the others may have had that complacency would set in, will now be dashed.

Ever since its launch we've been looking at ways to improve it.

And the bad news for Mercedes, BMW and Audi is that for 1993, the Lexus LS400 has been refined in almost fifty ways.

Some of the changes are all the more subtle, like a door lock, for example, and a light inside the seat belt buckle.

Other refinements are more substantial. Air bags for both driver and front seat passenger and seat belt pretensioning make the Lexus even safer.

Modifications to the suspension make the ride even firmer at high speed and smoother at low. Changes to the 4-litre V8 engine make the LS400's already impressive fuel consumption figures even more astonishing. 35.3 mpg at 50 mph, the best in the category.

Alongside all these changes, however, one thing remains reassuringly the same. The 3 year/60,000 mile manufacturer's warranty.

Call us on 0800 343434 to arrange a test drive in the only car better than What Car's best luxury car. The 1993 Lexus LS400.



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When only four will do

Four-wheel drive is like an umbrella, a sticking plaster, or an insurance policy. You can get by without it. But when you do need it, the difference may be a matter of life and death. For most drivers it is unnecessary — they never go into fields or up farm tracks, they do not ski, they may never drive in winter. But for country vets, farmers, site engineers, linesmen, forestry workers, surveyors and all-weather travellers who do not want the large ground clearance or heavy fuel consumption of a big 4x4, a four-wheel drive car is a boon.

Most manufacturers offer the option somewhere in their model range, although some such as Fiat have dropped it owing to the relatively small numbers sold. There was no four-wheel drive system compact enough for cars, until Audi produced one in 1980. Audi engineers hit on the idea of running one shaft within another inside the complicated gearbox which took the drive to both sets of wheels. It was so efficient it hardly used up any extra power.

Audi was uncertain who would buy it. A whole new car for a small production run was out of the question, so four-wheel drive was made an option on the two-door coupé. The wheel arches were flared to make space for wider wheels and tyres, the five-cylinder engine was turbocharged, and the

There are times when four-wheel drive is an essential, says Eric Dymock

memorable result was the first Audi Quattro.

It looked promising as a rally car, its grip proved astonishing, and its good traction on loose surfaces enabled it to accelerate out of corners without wasting power spinning the wheels. A run of 400 cars qualified it as a production model for rallies. The Quattro changed rallying. It won just about everything, and rivals quickly converted to four-wheel drive in order to keep up.

Four-wheel drive provided such a margin of safety and grip that powerful all-weather road cars

came to need it as much as anti-lock brakes, which proved difficult at first to incorporate.

The market remains small, and Audi is an important player in it with Quattro versions throughout its range. Alfa Romeo has a 4x4 version of its old 33 and its 155. Chevrolet based on the Fiat Tempra offers it on both saloon and touring estate variants of the 33. X. Ford has a 4x4 version of the Mondeo on the way — meanwhile using it on a super sports version of the RS-Cosworth Essex.

Although safety is a high ground clearance, the Eagle Tempra is

one of the cheapest four-wheel drive vehicles on the UK market. The 1.6 litre Niva is rebranded by month to undercuts small Japanese 4x4s and even the Suzuki G-Wagen. Rover's 4x4 is a 2.0 litre.

The Audi Quattro is another 4x4 special of great vigour, the very antithesis of the Volkswagen Golf which has since four-wheel drive has electronically controlled "four-wheel steering" and is a technical tour de force of safety and refinement. The 3000GT has traction control and a suspension computer.

Nissan has a cheap Datsun with four-wheel drive at a mere £12,000. The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4. The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4. The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4.

The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4. The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4. The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4. The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4. The 1993 Nissan 2000 is a 2.0 litre 4x4.

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Audacious Audi's 100 Quattro four-wheel drive saloon is a winner



On the range: Four-wheel drive may be essential for off-road but is also moving on to the road

Finance doubts won't go away

The options on offer still demand care, Meryl Cumber reports

The fragile "green shoots" of recovery combined with fleets of ageing and less-reliable cars have prompted many companies to relax restrictions on vehicle replacement. But having decided to acquire vehicles, they are faced with the question: how?

An organisation's tax position can be decisive but other considerations include the balance-sheet implications of fleet ownership, the degree of risk the user is prepared to bear, and the level of in-house fleet management expertise.

There are a number of funding options and, the 1992 Hertz report found, decision-makers increasingly are tailoring a mix to fit circumstances. Higher-priced vehicles, for example, may be acquired through a contract-purchase arrangement while less-expensive models are contract-hired.

Outright purchasing still accounts for more than 50 per cent of company cars because, says Peter Rosie, general manager of Wispey Plant and Transport, it affords complete flexibility. Mr Rosie runs a fleet of 2,500 cars for his company, a volume that attracts significant benefits from its status agreement with Vauxhall.

"Many companies believe the capital locked up in the fleet could be better used elsewhere in the operation, but I have found that we can fund and run our vehicles more cost-effectively than a leasing company would, outweighing any possible balance-sheet disadvantages," he explains.

Mr Rosie believes that his fleet's size is a key contributory factor to the decision to purchase and that the breakeven below which it is probably more efficient to use external funding and management is around the 200-vehicle mark.

But even for companies with smaller fleets, a ready access to funds, a lack of pressure on gearing ratios and the 25 per cent writing-down allowance make outright purchase an attractive proposition. However, without fleet-management expertise, the whole-life costs (leasing costs plus residual value) could wipe out any benefits.

Bob Gordon, managing director of Kensing Leasing, agrees. His company's fleet management services can undercut in-house EM costs by an average of 30 per cent over the car's company life.

"It is not just day-to-day maintenance. We use our buying power to achieve better prices for our customers and our skills to maximise residual values," Mr Gordon says.

He adds that the cost of his company's services is the equivalent of the salary of three or four in-house personnel who may or may not have the necessary skills.

If, however, third-party

funding and cashflow regularity are required, there are a number of alternatives, the most common of which are hire purchase, lease finance, contract hire and contract purchase.

Hire purchase and lease finance are the oldest and least sophisticated of the four financial instruments and have been losing market share to more flexible options over recent years. Both arrangements require balance-sheet exposure of the asset and additional fleet-management support, but while hire purchase is a means of securing ownership, the user never owns the vehicle in a lease finance agreement.

For tax, accounting and operational purposes, the user behaves as the owner throughout the period that hire-purchase instalments are being paid, although the lessor retains legal ownership of the vehicles until the final payment. Moreover, a distinct advantage for organisations fully or partially VAT exempt, no VAT is payable on the interest element of the monthly repayments.

The monthly rental on a finance lease, on the other hand, is subject to VAT on the full amount because the transaction is treated as the provision of a service. The tax is, however, recoverable (in contrast to VAT on car purchases). The final "balloon" payment is calculated at the inception of the arrangements to offset the difference between the monthly payments and predicted residual value.

Countering the gradual demise of hire purchase and lease finance, lessors report a continuing growth in market share for contract hire as fleet users attempt to distance themselves from ownership risks.

All the lessor has to do is choose the car, pay fixed monthly rentals over the pre-arranged period, and leave the rest to the leasing company which will buy, manage and dispose of the vehicles. "Sale and leaseback" arrangements, allowing the user to free capital, have also generated growth.

As a rental arrangement, the cars do not appear on the balance sheet, but there are downsides. Early termination of an agreement or total mileage in excess of the level agreed at the outset will attract financial penalties. Further, for partially or full VAT-exempt organisations such as charities, the VAT charges are painful.

Many such operations are therefore turning to contract purchase which, as an agreement to purchase, does not attract VAT on the proportion of monthly rental covering depreciation and interest but does put the asset "on balance sheet".



Buying power: Bob Gordon



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ROVER 800 SERIES

ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER

Piggott and O'Brien rekindle glorious Royal Ascot memories

College Chapel plays to gallery

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

IT TAKES something out of the ordinary to lift the spirit at Royal Ascot, where each and every winner is generously acknowledged. Only rarely is the gallery fused in spontaneous joy: it was yesterday when Vincent O'Brien and Lester Piggott renewed their famed association to lift the Cork and Orrery Stakes with College Chapel.

Both old masters gave a virtuoso performance. O'Brien in honing an inexperienced horse to dismiss a field of richly-seasoned sprinters; Piggott in producing the colt with his customary late dash for his 116th victory at this meeting.

O'Brien's role in enticing Piggott back from retirement has been well documented. The Irish handler gave his former stable jockey the big winner he needed when Royal Ascot took the Breeders' Cup Mile in 1990. Now the need was of a different kind, for the death of Piggott's father, Keith, on Monday night, weighed heavily on the jockey's slender frame.

Yet again it was O'Brien who supplied the perfect tonic. "There would have been no more pleased than Lester's father, were he with us today," the trainer reflected on his first Royal Ascot winner since Blackbird, won the King's Stand Stakes six years ago.

It was in 1952 that O'Brien first rode the winner's enclosure at this fixture, when Malka's Boy won the Wokingham Handicap. There have been 24 others since then, including six in 1975, yet few can have given him greater pleasure.

"It's the only time he's led in one of his horses since Nijinsky won the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes



Striding out: Learmont, strongly ridden by John Carroll, wins the King George V Handicap yesterday

when he said: "It is he who put me where I am today. That's what I have to thank him for."

The emotion of the moment simply added to the excitement of College Chapel's impressive victory. Content to settle in rear early, Piggott quickly identified Michael Roberts, aboard Keen Hunter, as his most potent rival, and pounced on that pair at the furlong pole.

The two raced head to head for a hundred yards before College Chapel stamped his quality and drew away for a one-length verdict.

The three-year-old is now unbeaten in three starts, all in group three company, and O'Brien may supplement him to tackle Zafonic in the July Cup.

"The entries for that race closed before College Chapel had ever run," O'Brien said of the son of Sharpo, a rare 52,000 guineas yearling purchase who suffered minor physical problems as a juvenile. The merit of this victory was further underlined when the Ballydoyle resident reminded us that College Chapel is one of only three three-year-olds in his stable. Fatherland is another, but working College Chapel with any of his stable companions must pose something of a problem.

Until recently, it would have been Robert Sangster's silks that would have swept to victory on College Chapel, but Sangster is not doing too badly through his support of Peter Chapple-Hyam. A juvenile double, with Turle Island and State Performer, brought Sangster's winning haul to four in three days.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

ROYAL ASCOT

BBC1

2.30: There is no outstanding candidate among the home-trained contingent, none of whom will have encountered ground like this. The Puzzer, a Sharpo gelding, should love this going, won impressively at the Curragh last time and is trained by Michael Kaumte, whose runners in Britain rarely return empty handed.

3.05: Red Bishop is an obvious favourite having beaten Highland Dress and Sapience at Sandown in the Brigadier General Stakes. John Gosden's improving five-year-old holds the soft-ground specialist Garden of Heaven on Cumberland Lodge Stakes running, and won on the soft here last year.

3.45: The pace in the race is likely to come from horses drawn towards the middle. Sir Harry Hardman, who can creditably in group company last season, has returned to form but does better in smaller fields. Nagida was unlucky last time behind Everglades, who may not appreciate today's conditions. In a wide-open race run well at a big price, he won a well-constructed nursery in the mud at Newbury last year and has gradually been returning to form.

BBC2

4.20: Despite the presence of Lyring Fantasy, Wolfhound represents an outstanding bet. A group one winner last year, John Gosden's sprinter ran a cracking race behind Paris House at Sandown on his debut when giving weight away all round. He won the Diadem Stakes here last September with cut in the ground and will take all the beating.

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BBC2

Drum Taps in line for bold Melbourne Cup challenge

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

DRUM Taps could become the first British-trained runner in the Melbourne Cup after putting up the best performance of his career to win the Ascot Gold Cup yesterday for the second successive year.

However, his trip to Australia hinges on a visit to Britain next week by officials from the Victoria Racing Club (VRC). David Bourke and Les Benton, chairman and racing secretary of the VRC, will meet Lord Huntingdon, the trainer of Drum Taps, in an attempt to arrange suitable training and quarantine arrangements for the seven-year-old.

"There are no training facilities in quarantine at Melbourne which makes life difficult," the West Ilsley trainer explained. But the participation of the Gold Cup winner in Australia's most important race would be a fresh challenge for the

much-travelled Drum Taps, who has now won 14 of his 23 starts in the United States, Italy and Britain.

Yet his participation in yesterday's stamina test was in question until an early-morning telephone call had been made to his owner, Yoshio Asakawa, in Japan. "I put the cards on the table and said that he was not as good a horse on this holding ground and we had been beaten on it twice before," Lord Huntingdon said.

"Fortunately, he said he had kept the horse in training to have another try for the Gold Cup and he would love to have a crack at it. I was beginning to get cold feet, so I am delighted he took the decision."

Although the testing ground may not have been ideal, the way the race developed played into Drum Taps' hands. Sought Out, at his best when allowed to

dominate a race, was taken on from the start by Allegan and the IS-8 favourite was a spent force as the field entered the final half-mile.

Assessor led briefly turning for home, but Frankie Dettoni, rider of Drum Taps, was unruffled. "I kept something up my sleeve when Richard Quinn and Assessor came on my inside two furlongs out. I battled on to the furlong pole and asked Drum Taps for a last effort."

A lazy horse at home, Drum Taps is a professional on the racetrack, particularly at Ascot, where he may attempt to gain his fifth course victory in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.

Thawakib has suffered her share of problems, which had kept her off the course for nine weeks, and her Ribblesdale Stakes win was a fine training performance by John Dunlop.

7.35 SKY SPORTS HANDICAP (3-Y-O £3,494 1m) (6)

1	4025 PRINCELY FAVORITE 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	8	4026 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	4027 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	9	4028 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	4029 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	10	4030 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	4031 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	11	4032 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	4033 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	12	4034 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	4035 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	13	4036 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	4037 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	14	4038 BLUE BLAZER 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

6.35 OCEAN FLY MAIDEN STAKES (3.5.23.1) 1m (10 runners)

1	4440 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	8	4441 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	4442 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	9	4443 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	4444 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	10	4445 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	4446 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	11	4447 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	4448 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	12	4449 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	4450 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	13	4451 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	4452 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	14	4453 OCEAN FLY 10 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

7.05 FESTIVAL OF SPEED CLAIMING STAKES (3.5.23.1) 1m (10 runners)

1	53 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11	8	5304 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11
2	5305 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11	9	5306 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11
3	5307 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11	10	5308 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11
4	5309 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11	11	5310 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11
5	5311 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11	12	5312 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11
6	5313 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11	13	5314 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11
7	5315 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11	14	5316 BOURBON'S PORT 8 (8) M. Mason 8-11

4.20 KING'S STAND STAKES (Group 1) £20,361.50 (8 runners)

1	4011 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	8	4012 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	4013 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	9	4014 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	4015 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	10	4016 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	4017 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	11	4018 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	4019 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	12	4020 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	4021 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	13	4022 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	4023 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	14	4024 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

4.55 BRITANNIA HANDICAP (3-Y-O colts & geldings: £22,337; 1m st) (25 runners)

1	5011 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	13	5012 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	5013 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	14	5014 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	5015 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	15	5016 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	5017 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	16	5018 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	5019 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	17	5020 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	5021 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	18	5022 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	5023 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	19	5024 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

3.05 HARDWICK STAKES (Group 1) £56,700; 1m (40 runners)

1	3310 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	21	3311 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	3312 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	22	3313 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	3314 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	23	3315 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	3316 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	24	3317 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	3318 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	25	3319 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	3320 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	26	3321 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	3322 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	27	3323 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

2.30 WINDSOR CASTLE STAKES (3-Y-O 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th)

1	2301 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	21	2302 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	2303 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	22	2304 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	2305 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	23	2306 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	2307 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	24	2308 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	2309 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	25	2310 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	2311 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	26	2312 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	2313 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	27	2314 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

3.45 WOKINGHAM HANDICAP (3.5.24.0) 6f (30 runners)

1	3410 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	16	3411 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	3412 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	17	3413 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	3414 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	18	3415 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	3416 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	19	3417 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	3418 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	20	3419 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	3420 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	21	3421 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	3422 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	22	3423 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

5.30 QUEEN ALEXANDRA STAKES (21.5.7.0) 2m 8f 34yds (14 runners)

1	5410 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	7	5411 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	5412 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	8	5413 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	5414 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	9	5415 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	5416 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	10	5417 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	5418 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	11	5419 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
6	5420 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	12	5421 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
13	5422 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	14	5423 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

4.00 MUCKART INMID MAIDEN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O £2,717; 1m 13yds) (4)

1	4011 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	2	4012 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	4013 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	4	4014 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7

4.35 SEAFIELD MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O £2,395; 5f) (7)

1	4011 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	2	4012 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	4013 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	4	4014 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
5	4015 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	6	4016 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
7	4017 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7		

5.05 ROZELLE HANDICAP (2.7.45.0) (9)

1	5011 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	5	5012 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
2	5013 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	6	5014 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
3	5015 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	7	5016 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
4	5017 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7	8	5018 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7
9	5019 ELBRO 28 (10) H. Hannon 9-7		

Ballesteros and Olazábal play disappointing golf in first round of US Open

Hoch leads but Lyle produces a big finish

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN BALTSROOL

AT THE start of last year Scott Hoch underwent surgery on an injured shoulder. Recovery was slow and in 1992, his worst season for ten years, he won less than \$60,000. Recupation was completed yesterday when the 37-year-old American took the lead in the US Open with a four-under-par 66.

Hoch started at just after 7am and the Lower Course at Baltusrol was about as benign as a US Open course could be. It was a glorious morning, clear and sunny with a soft, whispering wind and no hint of the humidity that can dominate so many summer's days in the US. There were massive queues of traffic to reach the golf course, causing one American to remark that he had spent so much time in New Jersey he felt entitled to vote.

Hoch went about his business in a quiet and unassuming way, relatively unseen because it was so early. He described himself as playing with a band-aid on his swing, suggesting that he felt his swing was patched together and could break down at any minute. "I would compare my round today to a duck," he said. "On the surface he looks fine but underneath he's paddling heck." It did not look that way.

He had but one bogey all day and that really annoyed him. Stung to retaliation, he birdied three of his next seven holes, including the 17th and 18th. "I don't foresee any real low scores," he said. "The greens have a lot of knolls on them and it is hard to judge how far your shot is going to roll when it lands on the green."

Hoch's round was merely the first of many sub-par scores. Lee Janzen was on 67, Corey Pavin and Mike Smith, who was in the first group of the day, on 68.

"Seve's back," Billy Foster,

Ballesteros's caddy, proclaimed as they moved from the practice ground to the first tee. Sadly, he was not. Despite the enormous support Ballesteros receives over here, every bit as great as that accorded to Curtis Strange, his playing partner, he was wild both from the tee and on the green. He snap-hooked too many of the former and three-putted too many of the latter on his way to a disappointing 76.

Thirteen years ago Ballesteros started with a 75 in the 1980 US Open. Then he missed his starting time for the second round and was disqualified. He had a portent Ballesteros was not going to favour him then, and he was right. It did not favour him yesterday, either. His difficulty is simply that his bad back prevents him from practising as much as he needs. And so he limps from event to event like an engine that misfires occasionally.

What he needs is a rest to restore his back. But in Ryder Cup year and with huge financial commitments to honour, he cannot afford to take the time off. Meanwhile, he remains a sad sight.

Nothing was going right for José María Olazábal, either. Having covered the 470-yard opening hole without his ball touching the fairway, he continued in similar wild vein. He mounted a slight recovery after his fifth over-par hole of the day, the 10th, and played the remaining holes in two under par. He is nothing if not a realist, however, and his own description of his 74 was succinct: "I was rubbish. I could not play any worse."

It was clearly an advantage to be out early when the pace of play was purposeful and the greens were at their best. Colin Montgomerie, playing with Hoch, began with a display of recovery that had to be seen to be believed, saving



Recovering: Colin Montgomerie chips on to the 3rd green during his round of 71 at Baltusrol yesterday

par on the 1st, 3rd and 4th with brave putts. By the 8th he was three over par and wobbling. "When you get a chance you have to take them," Montgomerie said. "They don't come often around here." He followed his own advice and from the 8th to the 18th he was two under par, which represented good golf. He chipped in on the 9th and holed a 12-foot putt for a birdie on the 18th.

He had a 71, as did Ernie Els, the promising youngster from South Africa. "That wasn't bad," Montgomerie, who finished third in this event last year, said. "That was steady golf. I was not putting particularly well, so I did not expect a 66." He had made a slight putting change,

moving the ball nearer to his left toe.

Sandy Lyle, sporting a severe haircut beneath a wide-brimmed straw hat, gave every appearance of playing an ordinary round in which nothing particularly good nor particularly bad happened. He was three over par when he stood on the 17th tee.

Then something happened, all right. Lyle smashed an enormous drive 340 yards down the fairway, far enough for him to have a crack at reaching the green of this 630-yard hole in two, which has never been achieved in a US Open. Lyle did not break the trend, his second shot ending pin-high just to the right of the flag. It was close enough, however, to demonstrate that

on a calm day this green is within reach of such beefy hitters as Lyle and the best of them all, John Daly.

From 50 feet away, Lyle pitched so deftly that his ball nearly ran into the hole. A birdie was nice; an eagle would have been nicer. No matter, one came on the last when he pitched into the hole from a bunker fully 50 yards from the flag.

It was typical of Lyle to be so untypical. To cover these last two holes, which together total well over one kilometre in length, in seven strokes, three under par, is the sort of achievement few other professionals can match. Thus did he turn a ho-hum 73 into a 70, his second-lowest opening round in this competition.

US unless stated: (A) denotes amateur
66: S Hoch.
67: L Janzen.
68: M Smith, C Pavin.
69: M Weeks, W Grady (Aus), W Gleason.
70: Adams, D Edwards, M McCumber, M Standen, S Simpson, V Hasker, L Nelson, A Lyle (GB), 71: C Montgomerie (GB), S Flesch, J Sluman, K Clearwater, J Edwards, E Els (SA), J Haas, R Cochran, M Ozul (Lipson).
72: S Murphy, W Andrade, E Kirkby, J Smith, S Snicker, D Frost (SA), R Mast, R Grier, N Hartke.
73: E Whitman, B Fabel, T Rhyne, C Strange, H Irwin, L Mize.
74: M Olazábal, J M Olazábal.
75: R Maltbie.
76: D Court, D A Weir, S Ballesteros (Sp).
77: D Peoples, M Pfeil.
78: D Brown.

McCague stakes Test claim

BY IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (first day of four, Derbyshire won toss; Kent, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs ahead of Derbyshire IN CRICKET, a sense of timing is all. So it was yesterday, when, for every bulletin from Lord's, there was a wicket for Martin McCague or Alan Igglesden. They took nine between them, all of which made for copious notes by Alan Knott, the England observer on the ground.

McCague, who appeared to be fit for the first time this season, took five Derbyshire wickets for 34. To be more exact, he had them at a cost of ten runs in his post-lunch spell. He and Igglesden, who has also been having physiotherapy at Lillleshall, were quite a proposition on a moist pitch.

They did well to start on time, for nearly an inch of

rain had fallen on the St Lawrence ground on Wednesday. It was humid, also, but Derbyshire batted, believing that a pitch which had been used before would eventually take spin.

Barnett went in the third over, following one from Igglesden that swung away, but for so long as Morris remained, driving on the up with impudence, Derbyshire had the makings of a decent total. It would be churlish in view of what followed to mention that he got himself out, but perhaps not in light of the fact that he, too, was under surveillance.

Morris had made 57 from 78 balls when he top-edged a hook at Ealham to square leg. Thereafter, the remainder of Derbyshire's batting faded in. Their last seven wickets went for 27 to McCague and Igglesden: indeed, nobody other than Morris and Bowler

reached double figures. Hooper held a couple of lovely slip catches and Fleming one over his head at cover.

So Igglesden, who finished with four for 26, need not repine. His England career, one of a single cap, injury and ill-luck, will have further to run if he continues to bowl like this. Malcolm, too, would have gained something from this pitch if Derbyshire had not omitted him through a policy of rotating their fast bowlers.

After Ward and Benson had gone to the new ball, one driving to cover, the other pushing forward without conviction, the pitch dried out. Taylor, partnered first by Hooper, treated this as the four-day match it is. After tea, Long showed just why he is holding down a regular place, driving and cutting Sladdin with a flourish. They had put on 134 by the close.

Openers prove hard to shift

BY GEOFFREY WHEELER

THREE-figure opening partnerships, if not quite on the scale of the one at Lord's, were all the rage in the championship games yesterday.

With Mark Lawwell laid low by an infected insect bite, Somerset's makeshift first-wicket pair, Ian Fletcher and Nick Holland, exceeded all expectations by putting on 120 against Middlesex at Bath. Bill Adley and Jamie Hall launched the Sussex innings at Old Trafford with a pair of 147, one more than Paul Prichard and John Stephenson managed for Essex at Trent Bridge.

Oddly enough, only Athey, of these six batsmen, went on to score a century, reaching his first hundred for his third county after 332 minutes at the crease. He was eventually sixth out, one of five wickets for Gary Yates, the off spinner, who, in his first game of the season, was mainly re-

sponsible for limiting Sussex to 319 for seven.

Stephenson reached 97 against Nottinghamshire before falling to Chris Cairns, but Essex built on their good start to compile 330 for four, with Salim Malik unbeaten on 91 and Mark Lott, England's discard from Lord's, acting as nightwatchman.

Recher scored 65 before he retired hurt after being hit by a ball from Neil Williams, a fate which befell Graham Rose later in the innings as Somerset made rather heavy weather of reaching 267 for six.

The most serious injury of the day was at Northampton, where David Capel had his left arm broken by a ball from Malcolm Marshall and is expected to be out for two months. Despite 59 from Robert Bailey, Northamptonshire were dismissed for 125, Kevin Shine taking six for 62. Hamp-

shire, with six first-innings wickets intact, are 12 behind.

The century partnerships at Sheffield and Colwyn Bay were for the second wicket, Ashley Metcalfe and Richie Richardson both scored half-centuries as Yorkshire reached 282 for six against Gloucestershire. Hugh Morris and Adrian Dale put on 110 against Durham, who did not fall on Ian Botham until the 66th over of the innings, whereupon he responded with a spell of four for 11 as Glamorgan subsided to 300 all out.

There was hardly a partnership worthy of the name at Edgbaston, where 19 wickets fell in the day for 216 runs. With Waqar Younis again rampant, taking six for 43, Warwickshire were dismissed for 88. Surrey then lost six wickets for 44 before Martin Bicknell, with a valuable 37, led them to 128 for nine.

British Assurance county championship

Kent v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY (first day of four, Derbyshire won toss; Kent, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs ahead of Derbyshire)

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings
K J Barnett c Hooper b Igglesden 4
P O Bowler c Marsh b Eastham 36
J J Adams c Marsh b Igglesden 5
C J Adams c Marsh b Igglesden 5
T J G Gorman c Fleming b McCague 5
M J Vandermere b McCague 0
R J J Marsh c Hooper b Igglesden 2
A S Warner b McCague 0
S J Bass c Hooper b Igglesden 8
R W Sladdon not out 1
O H Montmorency b McCague 1
Extras (10, 4, 4, 4, 3) 16
Total (46.3 overs) 134
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-39, 3-36, 4-103, 5-112, 6-119, 7-115, 8-135, 9-135
BOWLING: McCague 13-4-34-5, Igglesden 16-6-26-4, Fleming 6-0-27-0, Eastham 9-1-30-1, Hooper 2-0-0-0
Kent: First Innings
T R Ward c Barnett b Warner 0
M R Benson bow b Montmorency 0
N R Taylor not out 34
C L Hooper bow b Bass 34
N J Long not out 82
Extras (2, 4, 4, 4, 16) 24
Total (35 overs) 194

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Somerset v Middlesex

BATH (first day of four, Middlesex won toss; Somerset have scored 267 for six wickets against Middlesex)

SOMERSET: First Innings
A N Folland c Sims b Williams 54
F Fletcher retired hurt 1
R J Hardin b Folland 16
C J Lloyd b Folland 17
A N Hayman b Brown b Fraser 47
N D Barnes b Hardin 36
G Rose retired hurt 1
Mushang Ahmed bow b Williams 0
N A Middleton not out 2
J D Kerr not out 2
Extras (8, 10, 4, 4, 4, 3) 24
Total (56.3 overs) 267
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-120, 2-150, 3-202, 4-221, 5-264, 6-284
BOWLING: Williams 22-4-59-2, Fraser 22-4-69-1, Folland 22-4-36-2, Embury 22-4-65-0, Kerr 12-5-17-1, Barnes 5-0-28-0
Middlesex: First Innings
D L Haynes, M Keach, M R Rempelsham, J O Carr, R J Sims, M R Brown, P H Woodhouse, M A Fellham, J E Entwistle, N F Williams, A R C Fraser.
Extras: B J Meyer and G Sharp.

Lancashire v Sussex
OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four, Sussex won toss; Lancashire have scored 314 for seven wickets against Lancashire)
SUSSEX: First Innings
C W J Athey c and b Yates 101
W Hall b Westam Alcock 19
G M Smith c Barnett b Yates 19
A P Wells b Yates 0

Gloucestershire v Durham

COLLYN BAY (first day of four, Gloucestershire won toss; Durham, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 235 runs behind Gloucestershire)

GLoucestershire: First Innings
S P James c Scott b Brown 10
D B Croft c Scott b Brown 10
A Dale b Barry b Brown 10
P P Maynard bow b Brown 10
I V A Richards b Barry 7
P A Colley b Barry 7
R D B Croft c Scott b Brown 36
R P Leachman c Daley b Barry 13
W A Wood b Barry 13
S R Barwick bow b Brown 27
Extras (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4) 24
Total (101.5 overs) 300
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-37, 3-180, 4-222, 5-222, 6-222, 7-222, 8-222, 9-222
BOWLING: Cummins 24-6-75-0, Brown 17-1-59-1, Wood 12-1-47-1, Gaveney 25-5-65-1, Barwick 10-5-11-4, Barry 16-3-38-3
Durham: First Innings
I T Botham not out 2
W Larkin not out 0
Total (two overs) 2
P W G Parker, J A Daley, P Blairbridge, P J Barry, T C Wood, C A Cummins, J Wood, D A Gaveney and S J E Brown to bat.
BOWLING: Westin 9-1-4-0, Barwick 2-1-1-0
Extras: (0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0) 3
Total (101.5 overs) 300
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-148, 3-160, 4-184, 5-197, 6-222, 7-222, 8-222, 9-222
BOWLING: Westin 24-6-75-0, Brown 17-1-59-1, Wood 12-1-47-1, Gaveney 25-5-65-1, Barwick 10-5-11-4, Barry 16-3-38-3
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Durham: First Innings
I T Botham not out 2
W Larkin not out 0
Total (two overs) 2
P W G Parker, J A Daley, P Blairbridge, P J Barry, T C Wood, C A Cummins, J Wood, D A Gaveney and S J E Brown to bat.
BOWLING: Westin 9-1-4-0, Barwick 2-1-1-0
Extras: (0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0) 3
Total (101.5 overs) 300
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-148, 3-160, 4-184, 5-197, 6-222, 7-222, 8-222, 9-222
BOWLING: Westin 24-6-75-0, Brown 17-1-59-1, Wood 12-1-47-1, Gaveney 25-5-65-1, Barwick 10-5-11-4, Barry 16-3-38-3
Gloucestershire: First Innings
S P James c Scott b Brown 10
D B Croft c Scott b Brown 10
A Dale b Barry b Brown 10
P P Maynard bow b Brown 10
I V A Richards b Barry 7
P A Colley b Barry 7
R D B Croft c Scott b Brown 36
R P Leachman c Daley b Barry 13
W A Wood b Barry 13
S R Barwick bow b Brown 27
Extras (4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4) 24
Total (101.5 overs) 300
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-37, 3-180, 4-222, 5-222, 6-222, 7-222, 8-222, 9-222
BOWLING: Cummins 24-6-75-0, Brown 17-1-59-1, Wood 12-1-47-1, Gaveney 25-5-65-1, Barwick 10-5-11-4, Barry 16-3-38-3
Durham: First Innings
I T Botham not out 2
W Larkin not out 0
Total (two overs) 2
P W G Parker, J A Daley, P Blairbridge, P J Barry, T C Wood, C A Cummins, J Wood, D A Gaveney and S J E Brown to bat.
BOWLING: Westin 9-1-4-0, Barwick 2-1-1-0
Extras: (0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0) 3
Total (101.5 overs) 300
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-42, 2-148, 3-160, 4-184, 5-197, 6-222, 7-222, 8-222, 9-222
BOWLING: Westin 24-6-75-0, Brown 17-1-59-1, Wood 12-1-47-1, Gaveney 25-5-65-1, Barwick 10-5-11-4, Barry 16-3-38-3
Gloucestershire: First Innings
S P James c Scott b Brown 10
D B Croft c Scott b Brown 10
A Dale b Barry b Brown 10
P P Maynard bow b Brown 10
I V A Richards b Barry 7
P A Colley b Barry 7
R D B Croft c Scott b Brown 36
R P Leachman c Daley b Barry 13
W A Wood b Barry 13
S R Barwick bow b Brown 27
Extras (4, 4,

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 **I Love Lucy** (b/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Lucille Ball (#3012)
- 6.45 **Split and Hercules**: Fighting dog and cat cartoon series (#3479-70)
- 7.00 **The Bill Engvall Show** presented by Chris Evans and Gabi Roslin (#30079)
- 9.00 **You Bet Your Life**: American game show hosted by Bill Cobby (p) (#2789)
- 9.30 **Schools!** (#150321)
- 12.00 **The Parliament Programme**: Anne Peckin reports on yesterday's business in both Houses (#45922)
- 12.30 **Science Street**: Entertaining pre-school learning series. The guest is singer Carli Simon (p) (#6353-35)
- 1.30 **Dr Snuggles**: Animated adventures of an odd ball character (p) (#2418)
- 2.00 **Film: Ships With Wings** (1941, b/w) starring John Clements and Leslie Banks. Second world war film. An Air drama about a pilot, unjustly demoted from the service, who is given a second chance to prove himself. Directed by Sergei Nolbandov (#20073)
- 3.00 **Jaco**: Cut-out animation from The Netherlands (#068333)
- 4.00 **Profiles of Nature**: A Canadian wildlife documentary about the bleak life of the eider duck (#419)
- 4.30 **Quiz To One**: Fast-moving general knowledge quiz game. The questionmaster is William G Stewart (Telcel) (p) (#32)
- 5.00 **Magic or Medicine?**: A repeat of Monday's programme, the first of a new series on alternative medicine, presented by Dr Bob Buckman (Telcel) (#3437)
- 6.00 **800 Women**: Comedy series about a teenage girl, the only female in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (p) (p) (#85)
- 6.30 **Happy Days**: Another comedy walfow in nostalgia (p) (Telcel) (#44)
- 7.00 **Chris and His** with Jon Snow and Jonathan Badawi (Telcel) Weather (#96578)
- 7.50 **First Reaction** (#63470)



Strange behaviour: Scott and Wray (9.00pm)

9676541



Faces of rock: Faith No More (12.40am)

12.40am Electric Ballroom The first of a live-part series on modern music. Featured tonight are Faith No More, the Gnd, Shane McSowan and Nick Cave. Plus live performances from the Frames and Therapy (s) (8632432). Ends at 1.10

OSPORT

[illegible]

on Eagle II (1991) L

The World That Came in from the Cold. *World Service, 1.15pm.*
There is a rise today in the temperature of this documentary series about the years of cold war between East and West. Detente was the name of the thaw, and it lasted from the late 1960s to the early 1970s. According to Henry Kissinger, Nixon's opening of diplomatic links with Peking started the thaw. According to most of the others interviewed today, Nixon's resignation after Watergate effectively ended it.

Peter Davailie

WORLD SERVICE

London: **Hein 8.95** **Europe 9.95** **USA 12.95**
Worldwide **12.95** **Meridian 8.95** **USA 12.95**
News: **9.15** **Worlds of Faith 8.15** **Mu 10.15**
16.15 **Global Concepts 16.30** **On the Edge 16.30**
16.30 **World of News 16.30** **English 16.30**
12.30 **China 12.45** **1.00** **Nine 1.10**
12.30 **Map: Matched 1.45** **Spots Roundup 1.45**
3.45 **Global Concepts 4.00** **USA 4.15**
4.05 **Global News 4.10** **News About Britain 4.10**
4.10 **World News Report 4.10**
8.30 **News 8.45** **Outlook 8.30** **Europe 7.40**
8.30 **Science in Action 10.00** **News 10.15**
11.45 **Spot Night News 12.05**
1.30 **Worlds of Faith 1.45** **1.45** **1.45**
3.30 **Worlds of Faith 3.45** **3.45**
3.30 **Tales and Midnight Cinema 3.45**
Politics 4.00 **News 4.10** **News About Britain 4.10**

CLASSIC FM

String Orchestra) **3.00** **Piano: Trelawny 3.00**
Classical 4.00 **8.00** **Bevering Concert 8.00**
4.45 **Verdi 4.45** **Romantic 10.00** **Moths 10.00**

All times in BST. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 News and Press Review in German. 6.00 Morgenmagazin. Topic 10 Touristen 8.30am 7.00 News 7.10 News 7.15 News 7.20am BBC 6.30 The World That Came in from the Cold 6.50am 10.00 News 10.00 World Business Report 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.01 Focus 11.05am 11.35am Business News 11.45am 12.00 News of Faith 1.15 The World That Came in from the Cold 1.30pm 2.00 News 2.00 The World That Came in from the Cold 2.30pm 3.30 The World That Came in from the Cold 3.30pm 4.30am BBC English 4.45 News and Press Review in French 4.50am 5.00am BBC English 5.20am L'histoire 5.30am 5.45am 6.00am 6.15am 6.30am 6.45am 6.55am 7.00am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.30am 7.40am 7.50am 8.00am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am

VIRGIN 1215
 6:00am Adult News 6:30am News at 10
 1:00pm Mike Johnson 4:00pm Tammy Vance
 7:00pm The Weekend Starts Here 10:00pm News

Greening 2:00-4:00am Sandy Beach

Gooch made to wait five hours for breakthrough as luck deserts his side on first day at Lord's

Australian openers punish England

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENTLORD'S (first day of five:
Australia won toss): Australia
have scored 292 for two wickets
against England

ALL the threats and exhortations came to nothing. Roused by fighting talk from captain, manager and chairman, England still needed five hours to take their first wicket on the opening day of the second Test match at Lord's yesterday. There was no lack of effort, no lack of the required passion. Luck deserts habitual losers.

Graham Gooch, who has left nobody in any doubt what this game means to him, lost the toss and the chance to impose control. England bowled well, better than at any stage of the first Test, and might easily have taken wickets while the new ball was moving off the seam. But,

Martin McCague and Alan Igglesden, the Kent bowlers who have been close to England selection this summer, took nine wickets between them as Derbyshire were dismissed for 135 at Canterbury yesterday. Igglesden took four for 26, McCague five for 34. Report, page 46

when the tide is running against a team, the edges never go to hand.

Mark Taylor and Michael Slater took their early good fortune and took over the day. In their contrasting ways, the neat, acquisitive left-hander and his ebullient young partner fed hungrily from a good, slow pitch. Their stand of 260 was the highest for any wicket in an Ashes Test at Lord's, decidedly not the tonic which English cricket craved.

Slater, playing only his second Test, made 152 with a range of stroke and clarity of purpose suggesting it will be only the first of many. For Taylor, centuries in England are becoming mere routine. This was his second in successive Tests, his fourth in eight games in this country.

There has only been one bigger first-wicket stand by Australia against England and that was the 329 Taylor and Geoff Marsh put on at Trent Bridge in 1989, when their side completed the last of four wins in that series.

The bookmakers had formed a low opinion of England's prospects even be-

fore a ball was bowled, quoting them at 7-1 to win the game. By lunch, they had drifted to 12-1, by tea, it was 33-1 and, if Ladbrokes' betting tent at the Nursery End had not been shut due to a licensing mix-up, they would have accommodated anyone still wishing to back England by close of play at 100-1. Even at such fancy odds, few sound men would have been tempted.

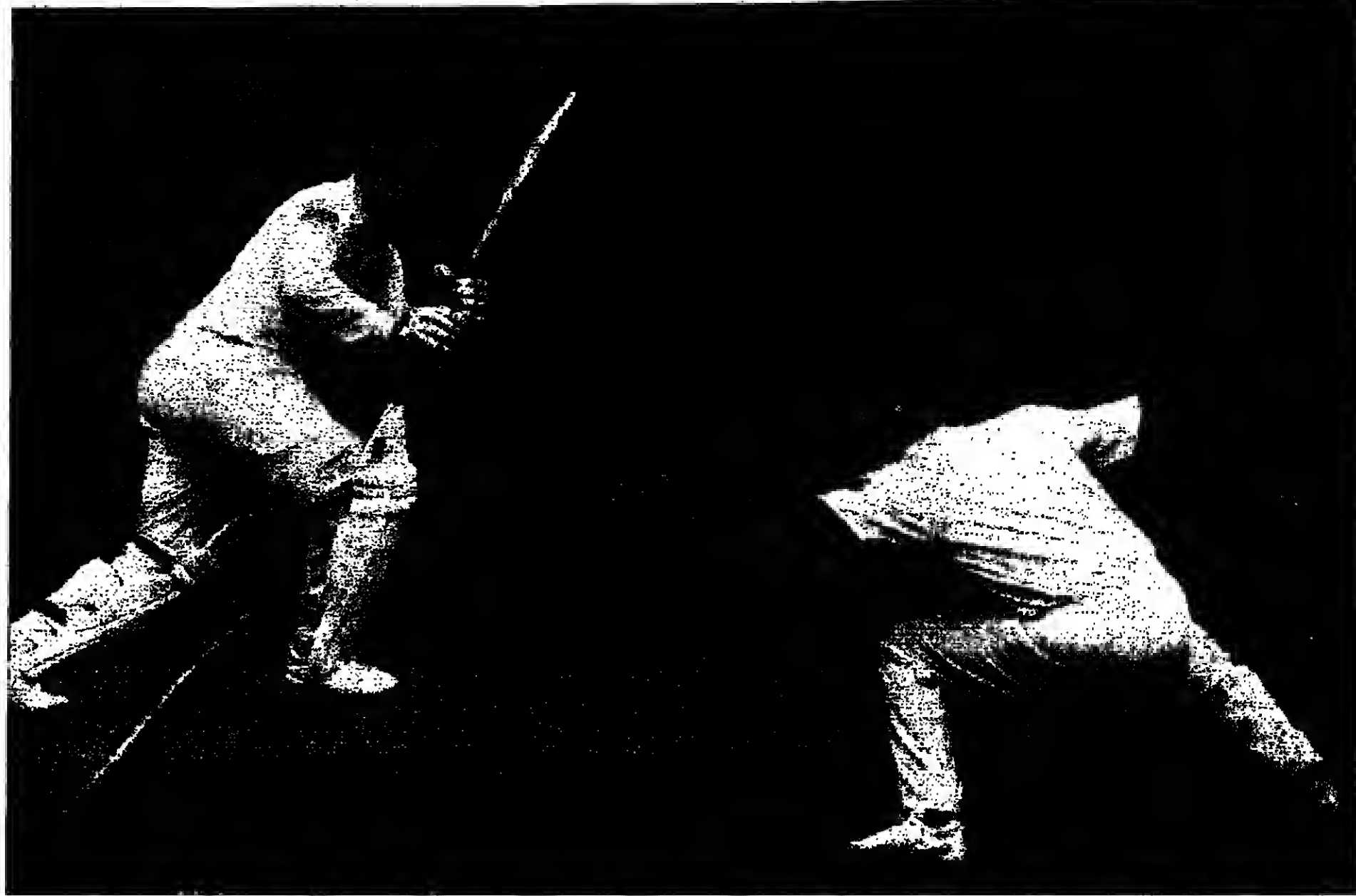
Mick Hunt, the groundsman, had been up all night with his staff, mopping up the effects of Wednesday's deluge. Through their efforts, play could begin on time in the morning sunshine and England, having like Australia, opted to play two spin bowlers, knew that early inroads were crucial. It might easily have happened, for Neil Foster and Andy Caddick were a handful for an hour, Slater being taken on the glove by Foster and all but playing on to one from Caddick that darted back off the pitch.

This was quality bowling, almost every ball compelling a shot. But it brought England nothing and, at 50 for none, Gooch summoned Such. His first ball turned enough to prompt spin at both ends and, when that produced no instant dividends, Gooch brought on Lewis and then even had a rare bowl himself.

By lunch, he had used six bowlers, operating to field-settings that were thoughtful and imaginative. Here was a captain answering charges of shallow tactics and a team responding. Yet here too, was an opening pair enjoying themselves hugely, running aggressively between the wickets and dispatching anything loose unerringly.

It was good cricket, certainly not as one-sided as the tea-time 212 without loss would have us believe. Lewis, who put up such a curiously poor effort at Old Trafford and rightly attracted the ire of Gooch and Keith Fletcher, reacted impressively, running in all day with vigour and purpose. Tufnell bowled with his mislaid loop and his mislaid smile back in place. But England could not beg or borrow a wicket.

They should have had one, shortly before tea, when Taylor was drawn down the pitch by Tufnell and hopelessly beaten by one which turned past the inside edge. He was a yard out of his ground when the ball hit Stewart on the arm. It was the second stump-



One that got away: Taylor steers a ball past the outstretched hand of Smith on his way to another century against England in the second Test yesterday

ing opportunity wasted in successive Tests and with Stewart's batting suffering along with the confidence of the bowlers, the evidence for a proper wicketkeeper is now overwhelming.

Taylor was on 85 then, but Slater was long past his century, a milestone he recorded by punching the air repeatedly, kissing his green helmet and throwing his arms around Taylor.

Slater's strength is speed of footwork, so nimble he looks to be on wheels. It gets him in position uncommonly early, so his favourite on-drive is played from perfect position, no matter the length of the ball. At 150, however, it all suddenly seemed too easy to

him and he was caught by the substitute, Ben Smith, at mid-wicket, mistiming a full-length ball as Lewis attacked him round the wicket.

Six overs later, Taylor followed and there was at least a certain justice in his end. Tufnell once more deceived him in flight, but this time, as the advancing Taylor played for turn, the ball drifted past the outside edge, a simpler stumping which Stewart gratefully completed.

The rest was anti-climactic, with England in no hurry to bowl extra overs and Boon and Mark Waugh intent on nothing other than being in residence when play resumes this morning. They survived the second new ball, now five

overs old, and unless the fates decide to favour England this morning, an awesome total is in prospect.

England will play five Tests and five one-day internationals during their winter tour of the Caribbean. After months of negotiations, England won concessions on the start of the tour, which will begin in January rather than February, and on there being four warm-up matches before the internationals.

TEST MATCHES: Feb 19-24: Kingston, Jamaica (first day Feb 20; Mar 17-22: Georgetown, Guyana (first day Mar 21); Mar 25-30: Port of Spain, Trinidad (first day Mar 26); Apr 8-13: Bridgetown, Barbados (first day Apr 11); Apr 16-21: St John's, Antigua (first day Apr 19). ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS: Feb 18: Bridgetown, Barbados; Feb 20: Kingston, Jamaica; Mar 22: St Vincent; Mar 23: Port of Spain, Trinidad; Mar 25: Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Australia won toss

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

	Dr	4s	6s	Min	Ball
M A Taylor at Stewart b Tufnell	111	1	10	323	245
M J Slater c Smith (B F Smith) b Lewis	152	1	18	293	263
Neil Foster to mid-wicket	1	1	1	55	45
D C Boon not out	6			35	26
M E Waugh not out	6			35	26
Extras (b 1, w 1, nb 10)	12				
Total (2 wickets, 360 mins, 84 overs)	282				

*AR Butler, SR Waugh, JJA Hasty, TBA May, MG Hughes, SK Warne and C J McDermott to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-230 (Taylor 100), 2-277 (Boon 2).

BOWLING: Caddick 21-4-51-0 (nb 4) (8-1-23-0, 5-1-15-0, 5-0-22-0, 5-0-1-0); Foster 18-4-66-0 (7-0-27-0, 4-0-12-0, 5-0-19-0, 2-0-2-0); Such 14-1-51-0 (4-1-5-0, 5-0-17-0, 4-0-9-0); Tufnell 15-2-45-1 (nb 5) (4-0-21-0, 7-1-35-0, 4-1-9-1); Lewis 15-1-07-1 (nb 6) (8-1-23-0, 7-0-34-1); Gooch 6-1-15-0 (w 1) (one spell); Hick 4-0-3-0 (2-0-0-0, 2-1-3-0).

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: 60: 55min, 14.4 overs; 100: 111min, 29.5 overs; Lunch: 101-0 (Taylor 36; Slater 63; 33 overs, 190: 176min, 48 overs; 200: 229min, 60.4 overs; Tea: 212-0 (Taylor 85; Slater 123), 67 overs; 250: 250min, 75.5 overs. New ball taken after 95.3 overs at 289-2.

Taylor: 50 in 158min, 126 balls, 5 fours, 1 six; 100: 289min, 212 balls, 9 fours, 1 six; Slater: 50: 91min, 83 balls, 6 fours, 100: 180min, 175 balls, 10 fours, 150: 289 mins, 260 balls, 18 fours.

ENGLAND: *G A Gooch, M A Atherton, M W Gatting, R A Smith, G A Hick, TA J Stewart, C C Lewis, N A Foster, A R Caddick, P M Such, P C R Tufnell.

PREVIOUS RESULT: First Test (Old Trafford): Australia won by 179 runs.

MATCHES TO COME: Third Test: Trent Bridge, July 1-6; Fourth Test: Headingley, July 22-26; Fifth Test: Edgbaston, August 5-8; Sixth Test: The Oval, August 19-23.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and D J Shepherd.

Replay umpire: J C Balderson.

Slater shows wisdom of giving youth its head

BY JOHN WOODCOCK



Slater: enterprising

THIS time last year Michael Slater was working in the MCC cricket office at Lord's. An employee of the New South Wales Cricket Association, he was there as the beneficiary of an exchange scheme between MCC and various Australian states. Yesterday he survived an uncomfortable first hour to play the innings that we all have in our dreams.

Australia are greatly blessed in their new young batsmen—Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn and Slater. At the moment Slater is the most favoured of the three, but Martyn, who is not in the Test side despite averaging 69 on the tour, is, if anything, the best of them. Slater and Martyn are eager, correct, well turned out right-handers, and Hay-

den a hefty left-hander. They have all been celebrating the depressed standard of bowling in English first-class cricket, as Dean Jones and many other Australian batsmen would have been, given the chance.

It is something of a misconception that Australia always bring a clutch of batsmen in their teens and very early twenties. But the best of them never have long to wait. The last time three of quite such tender years as Hayden (21), Martyn (21) and Slater (23) came with the same side was in 1930, when Stan McCabe was 19, Don Bradman 21 and Archie Jackson 24—and what a trio they were.

McCabe was, I think, one of only four Australian batsmen to have toured here while still in their teens: Clem Hill was 19 when he did so in 1896, as was Neil Harvey in 1948; in

1953 Ian Craig was a stripling of 17.

Slater played the occasional match for MCC while in England last year. In the first of them he scored 103 not out against Cambridge University at Fenners. He made 15 and 0 against Ireland and 14 against Scotland, from which it might be wiser and kinder to draw no conclusions. He came up through the Australian Cricket Academy, a sort of college of further education and a fairly intense and intensive one.

After watching Slater make a hundred for New South Wales against Western Australia in Sydney last November, Alec Bedser thought so highly of him that he rang Bradman up to say as much. Yesterday Slater was lucky to get to 20, but once he had done so there was no looking back. He uses his feet as well

to get behind the line against the faster bowlers as he does to go down the pitch to the spinners. Having got in, he never let the bowlers settle, and even the Mayman must have been struck by how straight he played.

The chances are, I am afraid, that if Slater were an Englishman he would still be playing second XI cricket, kept out of his county side by relative journeyman. He is gifted and splendidly enterprising, and he played an innings to remember, but I am not convinced that he has any more ability or is any more advanced than our own Mark Latham, for example. When the game in England was run by more adventurous, less seemingly prejudiced spirits, youth more often had its fling. To look on the bright side, Slater's innings was a timely reminder of that.

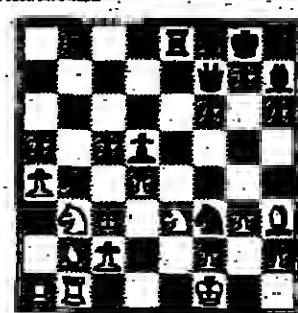
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Miles—Ston, London 1982. How did Short, black to play, capture vital pawn and go on to win the game?

Solution on page 44

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Championship Chess, page 7

By Philip Howard

GINGLYMUS

a. Sphagnum moss
b. A hinge-like joint
c. The Arctic mouse

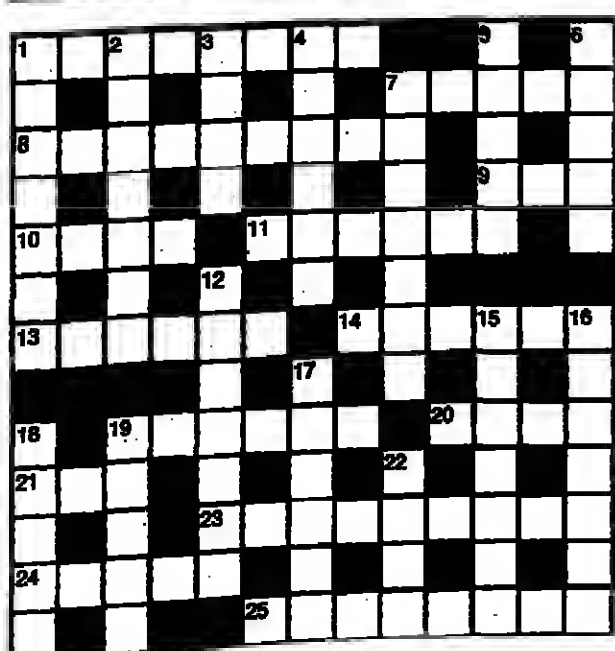
PHUGOID

a. A purgative
b. Aircraft oscillation
c. Having a snub nose

SOGDIAN

a. A stytic
b. An ancient Persian
c. A type of paradox
LAVANDERA
a. A type of lavender
b. A blind auction
c. A washerwoman

Answers on page 44



ACROSS

- 1 Hotchpotch (8)
- 7 Burp (5)
- 8 Trustworthy (9)
- 9 Kipling Indian novel (3)
- 10 Ogle (4)
- 11 Mill channel (6)
- 13 Sinking (5)
- 14 Mendicant (6)
- 19 Beget (6)
- 20 Apple seeds (4)
- 21 Vibrate (3)
- 23 Bewitched (9)
- 24 Provide food (5)
- 25 Affection (3)

DOWN

- 1 Glass balls game (7)
- 2 Most important (7)
- 3 Sexual partner (4)
- 4 Ingenious (6)
- 5 Similar (5)
- 6 Victor (5)
- 7 As well (7)
- 12 Ratic (7)
- 13 Shine (7)
- 16 Remainder (7)
- 17 Textiles dealer (6)
- 18 Throw out (5)
- 19 Lather (5)
- 22 Pause expectantly (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3124

ACROSS: 7 Vile 8 Roulette 9 Scenic 10 Skippy 11 Bray 12 Acrimony 15 Eloquent 17 Sigh 18 String 21 Length 22 Hercules 23 Lead
DOWN: 1 Visceral 2 Keenly 3 Wreckage 4 Fuss 5 Hellum 6 Stop 13 Ruthless 14 Nightcap 16 Quince 17 Single 19 Teem 20 Gulf

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WEEKEND
The Times crossword puzzle solutions for the weekend.